

Hafa Adai!

'Marianas businesses got \$40M in forgivable loans to weather pandemic' **PAGE 2**
Pacific Islander volunteers needed for COVID-19 study. **PAGE 5**

\$1

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22nd COVID-related death in NMI

» 3.7K recoveries; 128 new cases;
6 hospitalized

By JOSHUA SANTOS
joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. confirmed the CNMI's 22nd COVID-19-related death over the weekend, even as a total of 128 new cases were identified across three days, bringing the CNMI's total to 4,246 since March 2020.

In an update yesterday, CHCC also reported that, as of Jan. 23, six individuals are now hospitalized. **See 22ND on Page 4**



CHCC

This photo posted on the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. official Facebook page shows a CHCC outreach team administering booster shots of the COVID-19 vaccines during a "House 2 House" outreach in Koblerville and Chalan Kanoa last Saturday. A total of 110 houses were visited and 58 COVID-19 boosters were administered during the outreach. Stay up to date with your COVID-19 vaccinations. Register today online at <http://vaccinatecnmi.com>, or call (670) 682-7468.

Petition calling for SCA location extension nears 3K signatures

By JOSHUA SANTOS
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REPORTER

A change.org petition calling to extend Saipan Cares for Animals' stay at its current location has garnered almost 3,000 e-signatures as of yesterday.

According to the petition, the Commonwealth Zoning Board recently denied the animal welfare nonprofit group's request for an extension to stay at its current As

See PETITION on Page 4

BEA CABRERA

File photo shows Beth Pliscou attending to some of the puppies at Saipan Cares for Animals.



Hearing on Torres lawsuit is pushed back

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

against the House of Representatives' Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations has been pushed back and will now be heard in March.

Superior Court Judge pro tempore Timothy Bellas has granted the request of the parties to reschedule the hearing **See HEARING on Page 4**

The initial hearing for Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' lawsuit

WITH PANDEMIC IMPACT PERSISTING THROUGH FY 2021

'CNMI's deficit in FY'21 is \$42.6M'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

With the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the CNMI economy persisting through fiscal year 2021, the CNMI's deficit that fiscal year is estimated at \$42.6 million, according to Finance Secretary David DLG Atalig.

That is already a reduction of more than \$22 million compared to the total deficit of \$64.7 million. In his FY 2021 Annual Report, Atalig



Atalig

said the CNMI actually ended the fiscal year with \$3.3 million. **See CNMI on Page 4**

AT A GLANCE

As of 6:55pm, Jan. 23, 2022

VACCINATIONS IN THE CNMI

Eligible Population **98.5%**
Fully Vaccinated: **98.5%**

Days since last community transmission **2**

Pfizer/BioNTech	
Initiated:	37,444
Fully Vaccinated:	36,180
Moderna	
Initiated:	5,315
Fully Vaccinated:	5,137
Janssen	
Fully vaccinated:	1,119

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	25,757	1,450 ¹	27,207
Recovered	19,496	29	19,525
Active	5,956	1,450	7,406
Deaths	276	0	276

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	4,118	128 ²	4,246
Traced via Travel Screening	467	20	487
Traced via Community Screening	3,651	108	3,759
Deaths	21	1	22

¹/23=356; 1/22=385; 1/21=709
²1/23=38; 1/22=42; 1/21=48

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., <https://www.vaccinatecnmi.com/vax-dashboard/>

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

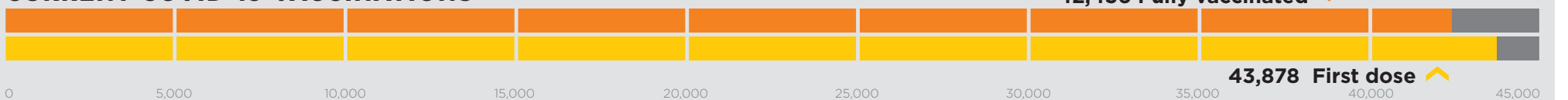
LEGEND:

- Red: Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

CURRENT COVID-19 VACCINATIONS

42,436 Fully vaccinated



43,878 First dose

Source: [vaccinatecnmi.com/vax-dashboard/](https://www.vaccinatecnmi.com/vax-dashboard/)

INSIDE



LOCAL

The House of Representatives has passed a bill that allocates \$1.3 million for government retirees.

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HEALTH & FITNESS

A Mayo Clinic dermatologist says there's a reason why many men lose their hair as they age.

Page 14



LIFE & STYLE

Meat Loaf, the heavyweight rock superstar loved by millions, has died. He was 74.

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TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

Local

‘Marianas businesses got \$40M in forgivable loans to weather pandemic’

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Businesses in the Marianas, including hotels and restaurants, received a total of 482 forgivable loans worth about \$40 million that will help them weather the COVID-19 pandemic, according to Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) over the weekend.

Sablan disclosed in his e-kilili newsletter that data provided to his office by the Fed-

eral Reserve Bank of San Francisco last week showed that retailers and hotel and food service businesses in the Marianas were the largest users of the Paycheck Protection Program, which was administered by local banks.

Of the 482 PPP loans, 12 went to small businesses on Tinian and 13 to Rota, he said.

The U.S. Congress cre-



Sablan

ated the PPP loans to assist small businesses weather the pandemic, as part of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, which passed the U.S. House of Representatives in July 2019 and was subsequently signed into law in March 2020.

Of the 482 PPP loans approved for the CNMI, 428 were for less than \$150,000 and 54

were larger than \$150,000.

The PPP lenders were First

Hawaiian Bank, with 268 loan applicants; Bank of Guam,

129; Bank of Hawaii, 83; and Cross River Bank, two.

House unanimously OKs bipartisan bill that allocates \$1.3M as bonus for gov't retirees

The House of Representatives unanimously passed last week a bipartisan bill that would allocate \$1.3 million in local funds as a bonus for government retirees.

All 20 House members voted “yes” to adopt House Bill 22-91, HD1, that proposes to amend the Appropriations Act of Fiscal Year 2022 (Public Law 22-08)

to establish a business unit and fund the retirees’ bonus.

House Ways and Means Committee chair Rep. Donald M. Manglona (Ind-Rota) introduced a floor amendment to include the Office of the Public Auditor’s fee, which is an additional \$13,000 to be reprogrammed and reappropriated.

Manglona said the new amount that will be reprogrammed and reappropriated would be \$1,313,000 and not \$1,300,000. No one opposed Manglona’s technical amendment.

Manglona said that, on Dec. 14, 2021, Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres submitted a request to the Legislature to allow reprogramming of funds for the sole purpose of funding retirees’ \$500 bonuses. He said Torres proposed to take funds from the governor and lieutenant governor’s discretionary accounts and also from the Department of Finance.

The lawmaker said that, on Dec. 15, 2021, the Senate adopted Senate Joint Resolution 22-05, which approved the Torres’ request to create a new business unit and to reprogram \$1.3 million from the general fund to pay for the retirees’ \$500 bonuses. However, at the House’s last session, vice speaker Blas Jonathan T. Attao (R-Saipan) raised some concerns about Senate Joint Resolution 22-05. He said the concern is that without a clearly identified funding source, they cannot allow this reprogramming of funds

from local resources and use of the American Rescue Plan Act or any other federal resources to back these accounts.

“As we all know, payments to pension funds are not allowed under the ARPA rules and guidelines,” Manglona said.

He said the House leadership wanted to allocate local funds from clearly identified funding sources.

The lawmaker said that, under House Bill 22-91, HD1, they propose to amend the fiscal year 2022 budget act by reappropriating funds that were line-item vetoed and by reprogramming funds from the governor’s discretionary account, Office of the Governor, and the Marianas Visitors Authority.

Manglona said in total, they have identified \$1,300,00 for the bonuses and \$13,000 for the 1 percent OPA fee.

He said on of use of ARPA money to supplement the shortfall in local sources, they want to ensure that they do not put the government at risk of any violations to the ARPA rules.

“We realize and acknowledge all the hard work our retirees have put into bettering the lives of our Commonwealth and we wanted to reward that by doing it in a fiscally responsible manner,” Manglona added. “This legislation, House Bill 22-91, HD1, as presented by this body, is the rightful avenue in getting the 25% to the retirees.” (Ferdie De La Torre)

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By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres signed Friday a Senate local bill that authorizes the nam-

ing of buildings and streets on Rota after those who have made significant contributions to their communities.

Torres informed Rota Legislative Delegation co-chairs

Bill that authorizes naming of buildings, streets on Rota is OK'd

Sen. Teresita A. Santos (Ind) and Rep. Donald M. Manglona (Ind), as well as Senate President Jude U. Hofschnei-

der (R-Tinian), that he signed Senate Local Bill 22-10 into Rota Local Law 22-06. The Rota Legislative Delegation unanimously passed the bill last Dec. 9.

Authored by Santos, the bill's purpose is to amend the Commonwealth Code to allow naming of public buildings and streets and names of individuals who are still alive and have made significant contributions to their communities.

Santos told Saipan Tribune over the weekend that a previous local law, Rota Local



Law 7-1, had established the naming of streets or public buildings and facilities for individuals who are no longer living and made significant contributions to Rota. Santos said, however, the Rota

Legislative Delegation also recognizes there are individuals who are still living and that they too have made significant contributions to the island and deserve to be honored as well.

The senator extended her gratitude to the former chairpersons and former members of the Rota Street Nam-

ing Commission, and current chairperson Mayor Efraim M. Atalig, and members for pursuing an amendment to Rota Local Law 7-1 in order to complete its plans on the street naming, subject to at least one public hearing on Rota, and approval or disapproval of their plans by the Rota Legislative Delegation.

NMHC, DPW to undergo 2018 Int'l Residential Code Training

The Northern Marianas Housing Corp. and the Department of Public Works will be participating in a virtual training for the 2018 International Residential Code Training set for Jan. 25 to Feb. 17.

The training is made available through funding from the Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery and in coordination with Contractors Business Centers based out of California.

"It is a very crucial training opportunity for NMHC and DPW, especially that the CNMI has adopted the 2018 IRC and the 2018 IBC and we want to ensure that contractors are complying with the most recent codes when building homes for families who have been affected by the two recent typhoons," said Gov. Ralph DLG Torres.

The 2018 IRC establishes minimum requirements for one- and two-family dwellings using prescriptive provi-

sions. It is used in a variety of ways in both the public and private sectors. The international codes are often the basis of laws and regulations in communities across the U.S. and other countries.

The training will cover 44 chapters of the 2018 IRC. Participants will go through comprehensive code regulations for construction of single-family, two-family houses (duplexes) and buildings consisting of three or more townhouse units. Participants will learn how to use and navigate the 2018 IRC Code Textbook, the Code Check Complete 2nd Edition, and the 2018 IRC Study Companion.

"This training will give inspectors from NMHC and DPW valuable tools and knowledge needed to successfully inspect a residential home during construction. A home is typically one's largest investment. If your construction project does not comply with the building

codes, then your investment could lose value and compromise your safety as well as others," said NMHC corporate director Jesse Palacios.

In November last year, NMHC and DPW completed the Blueprint Reading for Construction Residential and Commercial. Participants learned basic blueprint reading and increased their knowledge of construction drawings. (PR)

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JVA #	VACANT POSITION	OPENING DATE 1/20/22	CLOSING DATE 2/3/22
JVA#22-001:	ACCOUNTANT IV (SAIPAN)		
JVA#22-002:	TRADES TECHNICIAN I (ROTA)		
JVA#22-003:	ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT/RECEPTIONIST (SAIPAN)		
JVA#22-004:	ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT (SAIPAN)		

LOCATION: MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY

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Pika Festival budget increased by \$35,000

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Marianas Visitors Authority board has unanimously voted in favor of increasing this year's budget for the 18th annual Tinian Pika Festival by \$35,000.

During an MVA board meeting last week, the board unanimously granted the MVA management's request to increase this year's Pika Festival budget from \$15,000 to \$50,000.

According to MVA managing director Priscilla Iakopo, the \$35,000 will be reprogrammed from MVA's budget for Christmas in the Marianas last year.

"The request from management would be an additional \$35,000, because this fis-

cal year the Tinian Hot Pepper festival was budgeted at \$15,000 only so we're asking for an additional \$35,000 to bring the budget up to \$50,000, which we wanted to reprogram from Christmas in the Marianas from last year's Christmas as we had a balance of \$64,000 left. We wanted to make sure we have sufficient budget for this year's hot pepper festival," she said.

Iakopo said in her presentation that the reason for the budget increase is to allow MVA to expand the festival grounds, book charter ferries, and to add an additional night to the festivities. It is believed this would improve the event's accessibility by 50% and increase the event's duration by 50%.

"Based on last year, it was a successful event, we had a lot of participants and...we even had to temporarily shut down the event because of overcrowding. Part of the reason that we're asking for a larger budget is because we want to ensure that we follow COVID-19 Task Force protocols so we wanted to expand the barricades at the event to give us a lot more room, especially in compliance with the 3W's," Iakopo said.

The managing director noted that MVA will book charter ferries to accommodate the number of cyclists they anticipate to join the annual Pika Festival bike race.

"Last year, we didn't have as much bike racers and this

year we are anticipating a lot more, so that's an increase in costs and, in addition to that, we also wanted to provide a ferry to go down. Last year we kind of reduced that and we felt that not many were able to utilize air or sea services because there just wasn't enough so we just wanted to increase that capacity as well," she said.

With the \$50,000, Iakopo said the ferry charters will accommodate about 220 persons and it will run once a day and twice on Saturday.

Also, MVA will add an additional night to this year's Pika festival, with the opening ceremony to be on Friday and will continue on to Saturday before concluding on Sunday.

22ND

From Page 1

ized as a result of COVID-19.

CHCC's "COVID-19 Updates" issued on Jan. 21 and Jan. 22 gave no further information about the 22nd death.

Of the six who are hospitalized, three are unvaccinated, two are vaccinated, and one is partially vaccinated. Two of these patients are on ventilators. Two have been discharged.

Forty-eight positive cases of COVID-19 were identified on Jan. 20. By identification method, 21 were found through contact tracing, 17 through community testing, and 10 through travel testing. This was soon followed by the report of 42 cases that were identified on Jan. 21. By method, 18 were found through contact tracing, 22 through community testing, and two through travel testing. Of the 38 cases identified on Jan. 22, a total of 22 were identified via contact tracing, eight via community testing, and eight via travel testing.

As of Jan. 22, 2022, CHCC reported that, in total, there have been 3,785 recoveries, 439 active cases, and 22 COVID-19-related deaths of the COVID-19 cases identified in the CNMI since March 2020.

For the latest in COVID-19 vaccination efforts, a total of 354 vaccine shots were administered

on Jan. 22, bringing the CNMI's vaccination rate to 98.5%. Registering for COVID-19 vaccines can be done through www.vaccinatecnmi.com.

Separately, CHCC posted on its official Facebook page yesterday that during a "House 2 House" outreach in Koblerville and Chalan Kanoa, 110 households were visited and 58 COVID-19 booster shots were administered.

For testing efforts, 606 COVID-19 tests were conducted on Jan. 21: 51 through community-based testing, 71 referrals-only tests at the COVID-19 Community Center in Kobler, 17 at the Tinian Health Center, and four at the Rota Health Center. Registering to get tested for COVID-19 can be done through <https://covidtesting.chcc.health>.

How to 'Live COVID-19 Safe'

For those wishing to learn more about how to protect you and your families safe from COVID-19, CHCC asks the community to visit <https://www.stay-safecnmi.com/livecovid-safe/>. The website has links to a COVID-19 guidebook, a "10 things" graphic depicting at-home COVID-19 symptom management methods, up-to-date CNMI entry and quarantine protocols, additional information sources, and contact information for those with more questions/concerns.

SCC to select 2021 Business Person of the Year

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce presents the 2021 "Cloaks & Tiaras" Business Person of the Year annual fundraiser gala on Jan. 29, 2022, at the Kensington Hall.

The BPOY gala serves as the SCC's largest annual fundraiser for its activities such as the scholarship program, online seminars, workforce development trainings, small business support, and more to benefit its membership

and local community.

The event honors past Business Person of the Year recipients, current nominees, and the SCC board of directors. The SCC will be recognizing and awarding a 2021 Business Person of the Year, 2021 Small Business of the Year, 2021 Start-up of the Year, 2021 Nonprofit of the Year, and 2021 Chamber Member of the year. Additionally, the event

celebrates the installation of the 2022 board of directors.

Nominees for the Business Person of the Year and SCC awards will be announced soon. The 2021 SCC award nominees are selected by members of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce and include both members and non-members alike. The winners of these awards will be voted on by the Saipan Chamber of Commerce membership official

representatives.

If you haven't reserved your seats, do so by purchasing individual event tickets or an event table. Tickets are \$100/person and \$800/table (eight persons).

For more information, email coordinator@saipan-chamber.com or call 670-234-7150. COVID-19 vaccination verification is required upon entry. (PR)

PETITION

From Page 1

Gonno location, and as a result of the board's decision, SCA will be forced to stop all operations by Jan. 31.

According to the petition, stopping all operations, even temporarily, is something that SCA cannot afford and may lead to the permanent closure of the group. With Jan. 31 nearing, "SCA is now faced with the prospect of finding homes for the 150-plus animals in their care, or face the horrendous prospect of being forced to euthanize those who could not be [rehomed]," the petition states.

Saipan Tribune previously reported last July that SCA's Beth Pliscou had signed a lease for SCA's new site in As Lito where it will soon transfer, in compliance with Zon-

ing regulations.

In the petition, however, it is shared that much development on the land is and will be needed before SCA can begin setting up its clinic, fencing, and kennels. SCA hopes, though, to accomplish all the needed development and setting up within six months.

"However this land is not developed at all and will need to be bulldozed and cleared before we can even begin to think of fencing, kennels, or building a new clinic complete with power, water, and sewage. ...SCA is hopeful that they can accomplish all of this within six months. This is due almost entirely to donations of time, services, and funds from supporters," the petition said.

In closing, the petition recognizes SCA's contributions to the CNMI through its com-

mitment to providing "a public service that is accessible to all", and that SCA's continued existence is made possible through the "constant meaningful support and contributions from [the] CNMI community."

A link to the petition can be found at <https://chng.it/TrDYryFYtQ>.

The petition was created by Kayla Brin on Jan. 22 and, as of writing has already received 2,944 signatures toward an initial goal to reach 5,000 signatures. "I'm glad the petition has picked up a lot of traction," Brin said last night.

"If you read the comments on the petition the positive impact that SCA has on the Saipan community is so apparent. Buying more time for a transition right now will save the lives of over 100 animals that are currently under their

care and hopefully motivate the community to aid in viable long-term solutions for this incredible organization that does so much for the animals of this island," she added.

In a Jan. 21 Facebook post, SCA said that 12 shelter animals so far have been adopted. However, 106 dogs and puppies and 40 cats and kittens are still in need of "forever homes" before SCA closes its shelter on Jan. 31. SCA asks all those to stop by its As Gonno location and adopt a new pet for free. SCA's Facebook page can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/saipancaresforanimals.cnmi>.

Zoning officials could not be immediately reached for this story as this happened over the weekend and *Saipan Tribune* will attempt to solicit comments from Zoning this week.

CNMI

From Page 1

lion in revenue surplus above projections.

With this \$3.3 million surplus, plus the \$18.8 million COVID-19 pandemic disaster expenses that is currently pending review for reimbursement by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, it is estimated that the total deficit of \$64.7 million will be reduced to \$42.6 million, according to the FY 2021 Annual Report that Atalig submitted Friday to legislative leaders.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres is required by law to submit to the Legislature an itemized comparison of amounts appropriated, obligated and expended, and revenues identified and collected during the previous fiscal year. Finance submitted the FY 2021 Annual Report ending Sept. 30, 2021, to the 22nd Legislature, on behalf of the Office of the Governor.

Atalig said that minus debt service payments and earmarked funds, the remaining resources available for general appropriation was \$96.47 million at the beginning of fiscal year 2021.

Despite strong collection effort, he said the extent of the required pandemic response necessitated large and continued expenses from the general fund.

Consequently, Atalig said, total spending and obligations to the fiscal year exceeded the

appropriated resources by 54%.

Atalig said of the total approximated \$64.7 million deficit, \$37.9 million or 59% was derived from the COVID-19 threat prevention and mitigation efforts to safeguard the community from the spread of the disease, while \$7.1 million or 11% was from medical referral costs.

He noted that \$3.9 million was reimbursed for Super Typhoon Yutu expenditures, resulting in approximately \$34 million in total Disaster and COVID-19 expenditures.

Atalig said law enforcement expenditures consisted primarily of overtime from personnel of the Department of Public Safety, Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services, Department of Corrections, and Finance-Division of Customs Services, with an aggregate deficit of \$13.35 million.

He said this law enforcement deficit was primarily related with response to the pandemic, and was covered by the general fund.

Atalig said medical referral expenditures exceeded the fiscal year 2021 allotment by \$7 million as a result of the requirement to send patients to the U.S. mainland for medical care because of travel restrictions in Asia caused by the pandemic.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

HEARING

From Page 1

on the JGO's previous motion to dismiss Torres' lawsuit. Belas, following a joint stipulation from the parties, vacated the hearing set for Feb. 18, and rescheduled it for March 31, 9am.

The judge also ordered Torres to respond to the JGO's motion to dismiss by Feb. 24. The JGO was also ordered to submit a response no later than March 24.

According to the motion

filed by JGO counsels Brendan Layde and Joseph Tajeron Jr., the CNMI Constitution's speech or debate clause is intended to protect legislators from harassment by the Executive Branch, including "the burden of defending meritless lawsuits."

"The speech or debate clause protects the JGO Committee from harassment such as this lawsuit as it exercises legislative oversight. It has absolute immunity for acts, such as the subpoena for the governor to testify, that fall within the

sphere of legitimate legislative activity. The suit must therefore be dismissed under Rule 12(b) (6)," the motion stated.

Last month, Torres and the Office of the Governor sued the JGO Committee over its decision to hold him in contempt. Torres, as relief, wants the Superior Court to declare that the JGO Committee's subpoena served on him is invalid and unlawful.

Torres stated in his complaint that he is suing the JGO committee for violation of Com-

monwealth statute in issuing the subpoena, infringement upon the testimonial immunity conferred by the Commonwealth Constitution, lacking valid legislative purpose in violation of the Commonwealth Constitution, and usurping responsibilities constitutionally delegated to other executive offices in violation of the Commonwealth Constitution.

In addition, Torres also asks the court to quash the subpoena and stop the committee from enforcing the subpoena as relief.

Incentives of up to \$75 are available for Pacific Islander volunteers willing to participate in an ongoing University of Guam-led study.

The study, called the UOG RADx-UP: Protecting Life Project, seeks to learn more about Pacific Islanders' knowledge and understanding of COVID-19 and testing in order to decrease the number of deaths related to the virus.

Individuals of Chamoru and Chuukese descent account for nearly half of all COVID-related deaths in Guam. And Pacific Islanders—more specifically the indigenous people of Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, American

Samoa, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Marshall Islands, Tonga, Hawaii, and Palau—collectively have among the highest morbidity and mortality rates associated with COVID-19 in the United States.

Participants of the study will be asked to complete two confidential questionnaires and will have the option to also provide a specimen for COVID-19 testing. At-home test kits are available to complete the optional testing.

Each participant will receive gift card incentives, worth up to \$75, for completing the surveys, for attending an educational session on COVID-19 prevention and testing, and for each addi-

Pacific Islander volunteers needed for COVID-19 study

tional volunteer he or she refers. Eligible participants must:

- self-identify as Pacific Islander
- be 18 years of age or older
- have never tested positive for COVID-19
- be in Guam for at least three months
- not have a bleeding prob-

lem or disorder, an immune deficiency disorder, or an autoimmune disease.

This study is one of 69 projects across the United States funded by the National Institutes of Health. RADx-UP stands for the Rapid Acceleration of Diagnostics (in)

Underserved Populations.

This project is a partnership between the University of Guam and the University of Hawai'i John A. Burns School of Medicine, and both sites are actively seeking to recruit up to 800 participants in Guam and 4,000 participants in Hawaii.

To determine eligibility, interested participants may visit <https://url.uog.edu/radxup>.

For more information, contact a UOG RADx-UP research associate from 8am to 5pm on weekdays at (671) 735-0215 or via email at radxup@triton.uog.edu. The project is also on Facebook as "UOG RADx-UP Protecting Life Project." (UOG)

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, through the CNMI Office of the Governor and the CNMI Office of Veterans Affairs, invites all veterans residing on Saipan to a series of veteran town hall meetings to discuss issues of concern for veterans and military families.

The third town hall meeting is slated for Wednesday, Jan. 26, 2022, at the San Vicente Community Center in San Vicente and will be from 6pm to 8pm.

Future meeting schedules will be announced later, which will include meetings on Rota and Tinian.

The town hall meetings

are designed to be an interactive forum for veterans and military families to voice their needs and concerns.

Contact the CNMI Office of Veterans Affairs at (670) 664-2650 for more information. (PR)

PUBLIC NOTICE

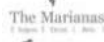
Case No. 1:20-CV-00034 Court ordered public sale of the leasehold interest for Lot 019 D 61 and Lot 019 D 83 located on Navy Hill, Saipan.

Sale will be held at the property site **February 15, 2022 at 11:00a.m.** The property has an incomplete 5 story apartment building improvement with 31 apartments overlooking the ocean. Bidders must register by contacting saipanhomes@gmail.com. Registered bidders will be notified of a viewing date and time and make available a copy of existing lease.

Terms of the sale can be seen at www.saipanservices.com or call the limited receiver at 670-287-4766 for additional information.



MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY
P.O. BOX 500861 CK
SAIPAN, MP 96950
TEL: (670) 664-3200/1
FAX: (670) 664-3237
info@mymarianas.com
www.mymarianas.com



SPECIAL BOARD MEETING NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the Marianas Visitors Authority hereby gives notice that a **Special Board of Directors Meeting** will be held on **Tuesday, January 25, 2022 at 1:00 p.m.** in MVA's Conference Room, Saipan, MP 96950.

MEETING AGENDA

- 1) Preliminary Matters
 - a. Call to Order
 - b. Roll Call
 - c. Adoption of Agenda
- 2) Public Comments
- 3) Committee Reports
 - a. CNMI TRIP Korea
 - i. Marketing Programs
 1. Social Media Digital Marketing
 2. Solo Golf
 3. Micronesia Resort Inc.
- 4) New Business
 - a. Marianas Seminar
- 5) Executive Session
- 6) Miscellaneous/Announcements
- 7) Adjournment

/s/ Viola Alepuyo
Chairperson, MVA Board of Directors

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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-22-010

PROVISION OF OPERATIONS, MAINTENANCE, AND MANAGEMENT SERVICES
FOR THE POWER PLANT AND DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM ON THE ISLAND OF TINIAN

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the provision of operations, maintenance, and management services for the Power Plant and Distribution System on the Island of Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of **\$200.00** (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked “*CUC-IFB-22-010, Operations, Maintenance, and Management Services for The Power Plant and Distribution System on the island of Tinian*” to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on February 22, 2022** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before submission deadline. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers’ questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI’s Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI’s Insurance Code.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor’s preparation of a bid or supply under the contract. The IFB does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the bid under this request, or to procure or contract for goods. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on February 1, 2022**, to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Marcela Tenorio at marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org, and Christie Sablan at christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in the said bids, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids submitted shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY BOYER SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-22-015

SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF HEAVY EQUIPMENT

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the supply and delivery of heavy equipment for its fleet in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded from the United States Department of the Interior (US DOI), Office of the Insular Affairs (OIA).

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked “*CUC-IFB-22-015, Supply and Delivery of Heavy Equipment*” to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on February 3, 2022** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before submission deadline. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier’s check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers’ questions, concerns and qualification should be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI’s Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI’s Insurance Code.


All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor’s preparation of a bid or supply under the contract. The IFB does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the bid under this request, or to procure or contract for goods. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on January 20, 2022**, to Manny B. Sablan, CUC’s Purchasing Administrator, via email manny.sablan@cucgov.org with copies to Yvonne C. Ogumoro, CUC’s Acting Water/Wastewater Division Manager via email at yvonne.ogumoro@cucgov.org and Christie L. Sablan, CUC’s Senior Administrative Technician at christie.sablan@cucgov.org.


CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in the said bids, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids submitted shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-22-005

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES FOR LOWER BASE SEWER REPLACEMENT – PHASE II

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting a fee proposal from a professional archaeologist who meets the U.S. Department of Interior qualifications (36CFR61) to create a work plan to prepare information, data and documentation needed to conduct archaeological monitoring during construction of all areas identified by the CNMI HPO for the construction of a new sewer line on Rte. 314 – Lower Base Drive and Rte. 30 – Chalan Pale Arnold Road in Lower Base, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded through a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). Award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval of the USEPA.

The scope of Archaeological Services will include, but not be limited to:

1. Conduct background research to document the environmental and land-use histories of the project site.
2. Prepare a monitoring plan to the specifications of the Scope of Work and the guidelines for research designs.
3. Implement the monitoring plan activities following the approved plan.
4. Prepare an End of Fieldwork Letter that provides a general description of the project, work completed, burials recovered, sites and features identified.
5. Prepare a draft report summarizing the monitoring and data recovery activities & within six months of completing the fieldwork.
6. Prepare and submit, based on review comments, two final hard copies and one CD-ROM copy of the archaeological report to the HPO.
7. Prepare and submit revised CNMI Site Forms for previously recorded sites, as needed, and new site forms for all newly documented sites.
8. Submit all artifacts collected and pay all fees according to the Commonwealth Museum of History and Culture (CMHC) to the specifications of the current draft curation standards.

The RFP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 for one RFP package set.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies of the PROPOSAL must be submitted in a SEALED ENVELOPE marked “*CUC-RFP-22-005: Archaeological Services for Lower Base Sewer Replacement – Phase II*” to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **January 27, 2022, at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers who submit proposal determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. All proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from the proposal submitted by competing proposers.


All proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the proposer due to lack of information or understanding of the RFP requirements in the course of proposer’s preparation of the RFP under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the RFP under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Proposers are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This RFP and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on January 12, 2022** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copies to Nicolette Villagomez, Water/Wastewater Engineer, via email address nicolette.villagomez@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC Senior Administrative Technician via email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said RFP, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.


GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director



INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-22-013

Lower Base Sewer Phase 2 – Gravity Mains

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Lower Base Sewer Phase 2 – Gravity Mains in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The intent of the contract is for the Contractor to provide all labor, equipment, supplies and materials necessary to complete the scope of work which consists of the installation of sewer gravity mains, manholes, sewer laterals and connections to the new sewer system, connection to the existing sewer on Isa Drive, concrete encasement of new sewer mains, utility crossings, restoration of site pavement, temporary soil erosion control, temporary traffic control, and other related work. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the sewer and water system. CUC requires the Project to be completed in **365 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

The project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from USEPA.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of **\$200.00** (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **January 12, 2022 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies of the bid must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked “*CUC-IFB-22-013, Lower Base Sewer Phase 2 – Gravity Mains*” to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on February 1, 2022**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of not less than fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier’s check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A Payment Bond of one Hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers’ questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI’s Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI’s Insurance Code.*

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor’s preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on January 18, 2022** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Nicolette Villagomez, CUC Water/Wastewater Engineer via email address nicolette.villagomez@cucgov.org and to Christie Sablan, P&S, Senior Administrative Technician – christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Snyder joins dolphin acoustics project

Anika Snyder, the valedictorian of the Saipan International School's Class of 2020 and is currently a second-year student majoring in Ecology and Conservation in the school of Biology, has been chosen for the University of St. Andrews Dolphin Acoustics Vertically Integrated Project.

This project addresses the challenge of efficiently and accurately analyzing data collected from dolphins using passive acoustic recorders and then developing computer-based algorithms that can be used to efficiently and accurately detect, measure and identify sounds. The output of these algorithms can then be used to examine questions related to the distribution, abundance and behavior of these animals. Researchers at St. Andrews were the first to identify how whistles in bot-

tenose dolphins are used as individual names.

This specific project is referred to as a "Vertically Integrated Project," which is an ongoing research project led by an academic supervisor and made up of a team of students from any level of study (the "vertical" aspect). The team of students can come from different subject areas with diverse backgrounds and skills across both arts and science. VIP projects started over 20 years ago at Georgia Tech, where they are described as "a transformative approach to enhancing higher education by engaging undergraduate and graduate students in ambitious, long-term, large-scale, multidisciplinary project teams that are led by faculty."



Snyder

The project that Snyder will be working on aims to evaluate, improve, develop and apply detection and classification methods for passive acoustic data collected from dolphins. The specific goals of the project are:

- to evaluate existing methods for detecting, extracting measurements from and classifying sounds produced by dolphins in passive acoustic recordings

- to explore new machine-learning methods for extracting sounds from raw data and classifying them to species

- to develop and implement improved species classifiers using both the improved and existing extraction methods.

The University of St. Andrews was founded in 1410. It is the oldest university in Scotland and the third oldest university in the English-speaking world. In the 2022 The Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide, St Andrews ranked as the best university in the UK, as the first university to ever top Oxford and Cambridge in a British ranking. **(PR)**

Song is admitted to Order of the Gown



Song

Saipan International Student alumnus Ken Song has been admitted to the Order of the

Gown at Sewanee: The University of the South.

The Order of the Gown, or OG, was established in 1873 and students who are members of the OG have worn the gown as a badge of academic distinction ever since.

Undergraduates earn membership in the OG as seniors (students with 96 or more hours) if their academic average for the previous two semesters at Sewanee is 3.00; as juniors (students with 64-95 hours) if their academic average for the previous two semesters is 3.20; as sophomores (students with 32-63 hours) if their academic average for the previous two semesters is 3.40.

In accordance with the provisions of the Student Government Constitution, the OG serves as a force for channeling student opinion to promote positive change. Besides the OG's substantial legislative authority through its appointment power to student and faculty committees, the OG's Executive Committee and task forces are unique methods for investigating the problems and concerns of the University Community. The degree to which the OG is involved in university life is determined by the president and body itself. The OG adopted its own constitution in 2007, which gives further structure to its organization and responsibilities.

Song, who is a member is the SIS Class of 2020, is a second-year student at Sewanee with the goal of continuing on to graduate school for Physi-

cal Therapy. In addition to his membership in the Order of the Gown, he has been listed on the Dean's List since his freshman year for maintaining a 3.625 GPA. **(PR)**

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP22-CHCC/CGC-NASMHPD/TTI 988-009
 SUBMISSION DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 4, 2022 TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)

“PROFESSIONAL SERVICES”

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE [WWW.CHCC.GOV.MP]. ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS** TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR, CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS

CUC-IFB-22-009

PAU PAU BEACH 2-INCH WATERLINE EXTENSION PROJECT

ADDENDUM NO. 1
 DATED: JANUARY 10, 2022

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is hereby notifying all prospective proposers of the following amendments to CUC-IFB-22-009:

The **Pre-bid Conference/Site Visit** has been rescheduled from 10:00am on January 13, 2022 to **10:00am on January 19, 2022.**

The **deadline for submission of questions or requests for clarification** has been extended from 10:00am on January 17, 2022 to **10:00am on January 21, 2022.**

Bid Submittal Deadline:

The deadline for submission of bids has been extended from 10:00am on February 2, 2022 to **10:00am on February 9, 2022.**

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **“CUC-IFB-22-009, Pau Pau Beach 2-Inch Waterline Extension Project”**, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on February 9, 2022**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.**

All other terms and conditions in the Scope of Work, shall remain unchanged and in full force.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality
 Division of Coastal Resources Management
 P.O. Box 501304, Saipan, MP 96950
 Tel: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315
 www.dcrm.gov.mp

AMENDMENT

NOTICE OF MEETING OF THE CRM AGENCY OFFICIALS

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios through the Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) hereby give notice that a CRM Agency Officials meeting will be held on **Thursday, January 27, 2022 at 2:30PM** at the BECQ 2nd Floor Conference Room, in Lower Gualo Rai, Saipan.

Due to the ongoing threat of COVID-19 and to ensure the health and safety of all, virtual public participation is highly encouraged via video conferencing through Zoom link: <https://zoom.us/j/6706648315> or join via telephone by calling the DCRM office at (670) 664-8300 for connection assistance and most updated information as Zoom meeting access code may change.

AGENDA

Richard V. Salas
Director, DCRM

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS

- Call to Order
- Roll Call
- Adoption of Agenda
- Adoption of July 22, 2021 Meeting Minutes

II. PERMIT APPLICATION REVIEW

- CRM Permit Application No. SMS-2001-X-213-A1**
 Project: KOBLERVILLE HOMESTEAD EXPANSION PROJECT
 Applicant: DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS
The Department of Public Lands (DPL) is proposing to increase the Koblerville Homestead Subdivision to 330. The project is situated on Lot No. 048 I 01, measuring approximately 62 acres of public land.
 - Agencies' Discussion
 - Agencies' Final Determination
- CRM Permit Application No. TMS-97-X-294-A1**
 Project: TINIAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT PARKING LOT EXPANSION
 Applicant: COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is proposing to expand the public parking facility at the Tinian International Airport by adding 55 parking stalls including other improvements to the existing parking lot area. The project site is situated on Lot No. T72 T -01/02 measuring an area of about 65,056 square feet.
 - Agencies' Discussion
 - Agencies' Final Determination

III. OTHER MATTERS

- Adoption of amendments to NMIAC 15-10, Coastal Resources Management Rules and Regulations to create incentives for building redevelopment and stormwater management
- Adoption of amendments to NMIAC 15-10, Coastal Resources Management Rules and Regulations to specify the location of public hearings
- Authorization for DCRM Director to promulgate regulation amendments
- Proposed revisions to DCRM permitting fee regulations
- Proposed revisions to regulation governing hearings and meetings to allow remote participation

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

INVITATION FOR BIDS

CUC-IFB-22-009

PAU PAU BEACH 2-INCH WATERLINE EXTENSION PROJECT

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Pau Pau Beach 2-Inch Waterline Extension, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The project consists, in general installation of a new main waterline and lateral service line; connection to the existing waterline; installation of gate valve assembly, existing lateral service tap relocation; restoration of existing asphalt concrete road; and other related work. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the water system.

This project is funded by a grant from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **180 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **January 13, 2022 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **“CUC-IFB-22-009, Pau Pau Beach 2-Inch Waterline Extension Project”**, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on February 2, 2022**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.**

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The bid guarantee may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States, Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

All bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on January 17, 2022** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email – manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Mr. Joel H. Puyat, CUC Water/Wastewater Engineer – via email joel.puyat@cucgov.org and Mrs. Marcela Tenorio Procurement & Supply, Senior Administrative Assistant – via email marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Opinion

Hafa Adair

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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EDITORIAL

Much as Trump tries to obstruct Jan. 6 inquiry, Supreme Court won't play along

During his single presidential term, Donald Trump had a penchant for referring to federal judges and Supreme Court justices as though they ruled based on loyalty to the presidents who nominated them. Thus, Trump suggested, there were "Obama judges" and Trump judges. In 2018, Chief Justice John Roberts issued a stern rebuke: "We do not have Obama judges or Trump judges, Bush judges or Clinton judges. What we have is an extraordinary group of dedicated judges doing their level best to do equal right to those appearing before them." He added, "That independent judiciary is something we should all be thankful for."

A lopsided high court ruling Wednesday against Trump helped dispel all notions of justices basing their decisions on personal loyalties. They dealt Trump the hardest of defeats by dismissing his mythical assertion of a post-presidential executive privilege. He had no constitutional basis to block the release of 724 pages of documents sought by the House select committee investigating the Jan. 6, 2021, Capitol insurrection.

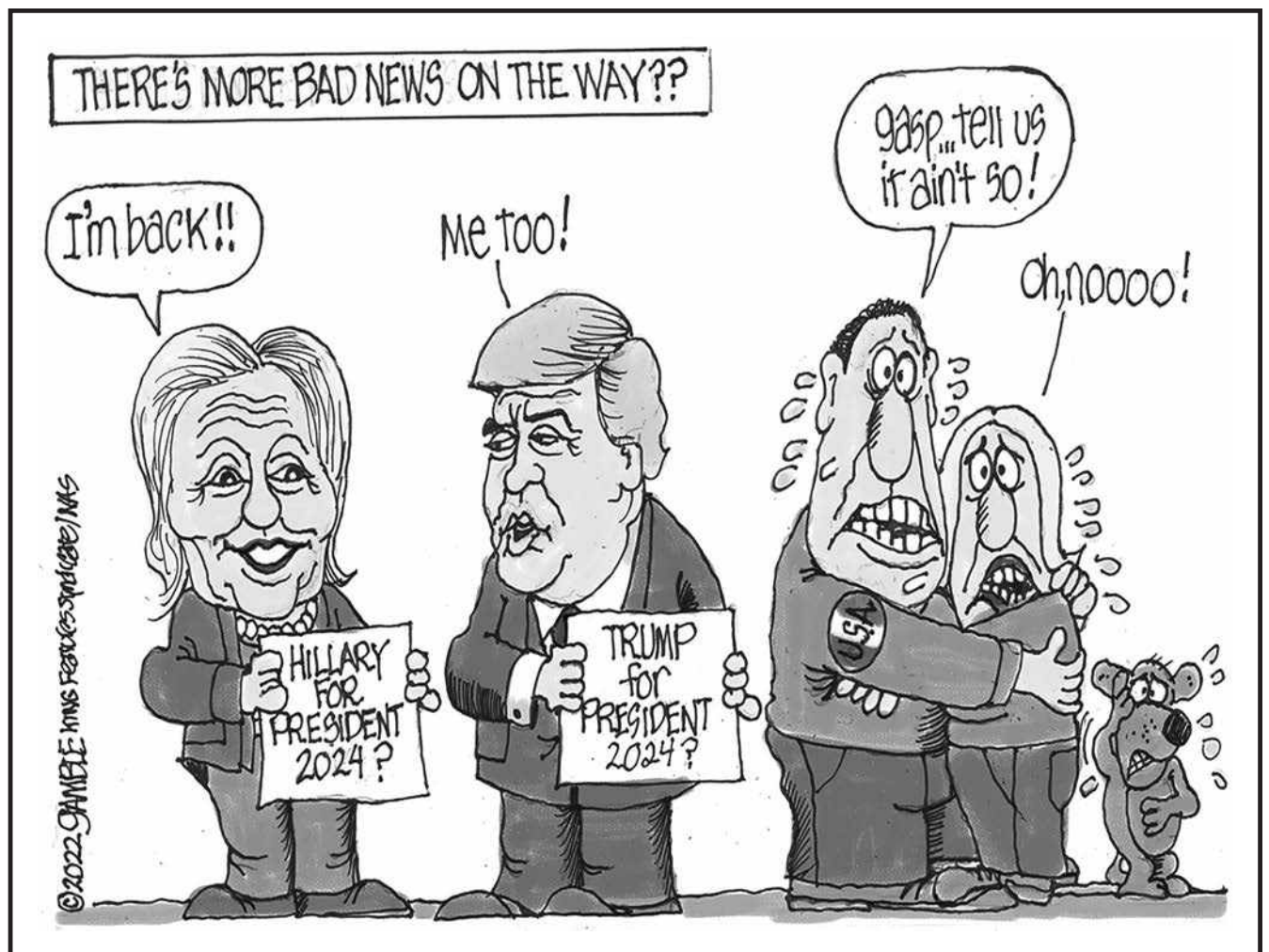
Congressional Republicans have gone to extraordinary efforts to block the Jan. 6 committee from doing its job. It's now a matter of record that the Judicial Branch sides with congressional Democrats and the Executive Branch on the need to uncover the truth. That is: Who planned the insurrection, and to what extent was Trump's White House involved? No matter what Trump's cronies in Congress assert about this being a partisan witch hunt, they cannot count on the Supreme Court to help them obstruct justice.

All three Trump appointees joined the majority decision against Trump. In fact, the only dissent was from Justice Clarence Thomas, who should have recused himself from the beginning since his wife, Ginni, endorsed the pro-Trump Jan. 6 rally and tweeted her support on the day the insurrectionists invaded the Capitol.

The 724 pages in question include draft talking points for the White House press secretary and drafts of speeches prepared for Trump to deliver, along with a draft executive order concerning election integrity. Trump insisted then, and continues to insist today, that his reelection was stolen through vote fraud, as if to suggest that President Joe Biden's backers fabricated his 7 million-vote victory margin.

Justices didn't go into detail on their decision against Trump and, importantly, didn't bind their ruling to the broader question of whether former presidents may constitutionally assert privilege. But they did uphold a lower-

See TRUMP on Next Page



Roe Day's message for Election Day

This week marks the 49th anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*. Will it make it to 50? That's the question women are asking with increasing urgency—and fierce determination.

Opponents of abortion believe this is their moment. Their support played an outsized role in the election of Donald Trump, and he rewarded them with three Supreme Court justices chosen with the belief they would vote to overturn *Roe*. They sit atop a judicial system that Republicans have stacked for years with judges who have chipped away at abortion rights at every opportunity.

Since 1973, when *Roe* was codified, states have enacted more than 1,300 abortion restrictions, and 2021 saw states passing laws restricting and banning abortion at a higher rate than any previous year.

Twenty-three states passed the most extreme legislation imaginable, sprung from junk science and partisan politics, and defended with the lie that the measures are intended to protect women's health. But these laws are all about power—not health. Power over women's lives. Power over women's bodily autonomy. Power to decide women's future.

On "Roe Day," we need to recommit to electing lawmakers who will defend abortion rights in Washington and the states. In 2022, we need to vote for women's lives. Our goal is to elect a 60-vote abortion rights majority in the Senate and flip state legislatures that are currently held by the narrowest of margins.

The balance of power in the Arizona House, for example, was decided by 3,000 votes in 2020, and in Texas, House control came down to 23,000 votes. The situation is similar in Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Michigan and Georgia.

Now, many of those same states are the epicenters of legislative action to make abortion care even harder to access—particularly for Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) and those living on low incomes.

Women of color are disproportionately more likely to need an abortion, with Black women seeing the highest unintended pregnancy rate of any racial or ethnic group. Black women also lead the nation in maternal mortality rates, a number that is sure to rise if *Roe* falls. The reproductive autonomy of BIPOC women is inextricably linked to the legacy of racial oppression and discrimination.

Today, that legacy is growing in states that have become laboratories for six-week bans and total bans, personhood amendments, fetal heartbeat laws, waiting periods, informed consent requirements, bans on public funding, insurance prohibitions, unnecessary clinic regulations—onerous laws designed to deter women from choosing abortion and make it more difficult to obtain for those that do.

By **CHRISTIAN F. NUNES**
InsideSources.com

Christian F. Nunes is president of the National Organization for Women. She wrote this for InsideSources.com.



Some of the worst laws have been passed in Mississippi, and we're awaiting a U.S. Supreme Court ruling in the case involving the state's 15-week abortion ban that poses a direct challenge to *Roe*. If *Roe* is overturned, 12 states have already passed laws designed to be "triggered" following a Supreme Court ruling, and the Guttmacher Institute says 26 states are certain or likely to ban abortion without *Roe*.

One of the architects of the vigilante Texas law, Jonathan Mitchell, wrote this in a "friend-of-the-court" brief submitted to the U.S. Supreme Court by Texas Right to Life: "Women can 'control their reproductive lives' without access to abortion; they can do so by refraining from sexual intercourse."

There it is—plain and simple. This fight isn't about outlawing abortion. It's about control over women. As Ruth Bader Ginsburg said in her Senate confirmation hearing about the decision whether or not to bear a child, "When Government controls that decision for her, she is being treated as less than a fully adult human responsible for her own choices."

Of course, there are no similar laws that give the government power to make decisions about men's bodily autonomy.

Over the years, an unprecedented coalition of women's rights and social justice groups have come to Washington to "March for Women's Lives," and demand that women have a right to abortion care, birth control and all reproductive options, including the right to have children and determine their own family formations without government interference.

Now, it's time to Vote for Women's Lives. There is no doubt that in each of these states working to ban abortion—and many others—the potential is there to mobilize a feminist voting force that will surpass projections for an off-year election, surprise the pundits, and make history.

The midterm elections will hinge on turnout, and we must resolve to break turnout records from coast to coast. With voting rights still in the balance, the best defense against voter suppression may be voter determination—and we are more determined than ever.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

What to expect from the world in 2022

December's end is when we reflect on what we hope to improve in the year to come...and also the time for my annual predictions of news headlines for the next 12 months.

Usually I begin by evaluating last year's predictions, but this year only one bears mention: For the second time in the past three years, I correctly called the long-shot winner of the World Series. I predicted that the Washington Nationals would win in 2019, and I predicted that the Atlanta Braves would win in 2021.

Apart from that, when it came to 2021, my crystal ball was cloudy. (Whose wasn't?) But it's clearing. Here, then, are my predictions for 2022. It's up to readers to guess which ones are offered with tongue in cheek:

1. Worried about the blockchain, members of Congress will continue demanding regulation of cryptocurrency. To the relief of investors, federal agencies will move at their usual glacial pace. Nevertheless, the House and the Senate will continue to hide ridiculous rules on the subject in the middle of thick bills ostensibly dealing with other issues. Curiously, nobody in the news media will venture to ask any member who's upset about crypto to explain what "blockchain" means.

2. Relatedly, federal agencies confronted with evidence that their systems have been penetrated will continue their habit of stonewalling. But worry not. Thanks to the infrastructure bill, the government's digital networks, which have fallen well behind China's and Russia's, stand an even chance of having 2022-level security in place by 2027.

3. Continuing my habit of picking long shots to win the World Series, I'll go with the San Diego Padres over the Boston Red Sox. (I know, but I bet you felt the same way last year when I picked Atlanta.)

4. In 2022, the Greenland ice sheet will dissolve a bit faster than it did this past summer, when it melted at a good 40% to 50% above what not long ago was the normal rate. Although the melting rate has proved difficult to predict, several models have it doubling before the end of the 21st century. As always, without exciting video, people will have trouble focusing on what's happening in Greenland, perhaps because the damage from the ice loss will occur so far in the future.

5. In other climate news, the internet's carbon footprint, which in 2017 stood at 3.7% of global emissions (higher than all but

two countries), will continue to skyrocket as people keep working and entertaining from home. By the end of 2022, only China will generate more greenhouse gasses. (Yes, there's some double-counting, but you see the point.)

6. While we're on the subject of carbon emissions, with so many people staying home, content providers will ramp up their recent practice of releasing episodes weekly rather than dropping a season all at once, reducing further the difference between legacy television and streaming services. Here's how this relates to climate change: Streaming in HD generates a carbon footprint 20 times that of watching the same content in standard format.

7. More on movies: "Babylon" will be the year's critical darling. The box office champion will be "Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness" by a landslide. Also, "Killers of the Flower Moon" will be an unexpected hit, because who wouldn't pay to watch "Yellowstone" as interpreted by Martin Scorsese?

8. A new, highly transmissible COVID-19 variant will appear in Western Europe in the fall. The U.S. will respond by banning travelers arriving from southern Africa.

9. In other foreign policy news, the West will yield to Russian President Vladimir Putin's demands that NATO curb its eastward spread, and will also promise not to sanction the Nord Stream 2 pipeline. Infuriated by the ease of his victory, Putin will invade Ukraine anyway. The U.S. will threaten grave repercussions if he takes more of the country than he wants to.

10. Pfizer Inc.'s share price will exceed the forecasts of analysts, who've predicted 2022 revenues, fueled by vaccine sales, of around \$100 billion. Furious that developers of successful products earn lots of money, Congress will pass a special tax surcharge on Big Pharma's COVID-related revenues.

11. Speaking of Congress, here are next year's election results: As widely predicted, the Democrats lose the House of Representatives, albeit by a margin much smaller than expected. To the relief of progressives, the party astonishes pollsters by maintaining a 50-50 Senate. Republicans flip Georgia, win North Carolina in a walk, and hold Pennsylvania by a hair. But Democrats flip Wisconsin and, to their own surprise, hang on in Nevada.

12. In other political news, former President Donald Trump will publicly condemn G.O.P. candidates who refuse to proclaim the 2020 election illegitimate. The result of this pressure will be ... the surprisingly strong Democratic vote mentioned in the pre-

vious paragraph.

By **STEPHEN L. CARTER**

Bloomberg Opinion



Stephen L. Carter is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist. He is a professor of law at Yale University and was a clerk to U.S. Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall. His novels include "The Emperor of Ocean Park," and his latest nonfiction book is "Invisible: The Forgotten Story of the Black Woman Lawyer Who Took Down America's Most Powerful Mobster."

vious paragraph.

13. Back to professional sports. The Green Bay Packers will claw their way past Tom Brady in the playoffs and win the Super Bowl over the Kansas City Chiefs. (I can't keep picking Brady to win. I just can't.)

14. Despite efforts to tighten security for Tor users, worries will grow that due to the interference of state actors, transactions are no longer secret. Added to longstanding concerns that Tor's concealment protocols significantly narrow bandwidth and increase latency, the problems will lead users who want anonymity to seek alternatives, increasing pressure on more popular browsers to offer a mode that's truly private.

15. In other technology news, as observers have predicted, Apple's newest iPhone will not have a lightning port; instead, the device will charge only wirelessly. Puzzled consumers will hunt for charging stands, only to find them sold out everywhere. Congress will open an investigation into pricing policies of greedy charging stand manufacturers.

Meanwhile, facing a surge in consumer demand, automakers will spend lavishly as they redesign all vehicles to include multiple charging pads. Airlines will redo their planes. Hotels will redo their guest rooms. Buyers of new homes will demand built-in wireless chargers, and owners of existing homes will frantically renovate. So will apartment houses. And restaurants. And coffee shops. And medical waiting rooms. The ensuing iPhone-charger-driven economic boom will last throughout 2023 and beyond, all the way to the 2024 election, when ... oops, sorry, the crystal is cloudy again.

Have a safe and wondrous new year.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The trial, retirees, and NMDs

I'm sure most readers are anxiously waiting to see what is going to happen in the Senate because it is not only the governor who will be on trial but also senators. The JGO has already deemed the governor guilty of the crimes he is alleged to have committed and now the House will prosecute him in the Senate that will decide on the governor's fate. After reading the 28-page resolution on the rules for the impeachment in the Senate, I found it inter-

TRUMP

From Page 8

court judge's ruling "that there is a unique legislative need for these documents and that they are directly relevant to the [Jan. 6] Committee's inquiry into an attack on the Legislative Branch and its constitutional role in the peaceful transfer of power."

The wheels of justice are turning, and Americans now have good reason to hope that Trump may finally be held to account for having directed a violent mob to storm the Capitol to block Biden's election certification.

esting that it's the same rules that were mostly promulgated by then-Senate President Ralph Torres, which means the governor is truly facing poetic justice that he had planned to use for then-governor Fitial. The only changes are in the name and the title.

The rules do allow for the Senate to subpoena the governor if they desire and the question is, will they be smart enough to put forth a motion to not call the governor and limit themselves to the evidence presented by the JGO or loyal and dumb enough to call the governor so he can put his spin of deflecting and gaslighting but present no new evidence? Given that the governor defied the subpoena by the House and refused to testify, he really doesn't have a right to testify in the Senate. The Senate should know the governor is trying to set them up by pleading to testify that would indeed put them on the spot to accept his rationalization. If the governor truly had a defense, he would have put it on in the House. Instead, he tried to change the narrative to make it seem like the JGO was some kind of kangaroo court driven by political revenge but he never challenged the evidence. The trial is really an open and shut case and the Senate shouldn't complicate it by calling the governor who is only going to deflect, gaslight, and try to change the narrative with his rationalization but won't offer a single piece of evidence. He lost his chance by refusing to testify and now he is in violation of another law.

The retirees and NMDs

I am truly up in arms about this retirement bonus and so should all retirees because we are owed far more than \$500, given that we haven't gotten anything for 2019, 2020, and 2021. It's now 2022. I know that the law was changed in 2011 with Public

Law 17-32 that was pushed and signed by then-governor Fitial, changing the terminology and the accountability to retirees, but retirees continued to put the same Republicans in control of our government. The law ended the cost-of-living allowance and instituted a "bonus in the amount the government is able to pay," with no guarantee to help retirees.

Republicans used this loophole to avoid paying retirees what they really needed, which was money to supplement the continued rise in the cost of living. Technically, the government doesn't owe retirees anything for 2019, 2020, and 2021 by law, all because the law was changed by some of the same Republicans still in office today. I can distinctly remember then-governor Fitial telling me, "We need to kill this Retirement Fund; the government can't afford it." And with the help of Sixto, he did kill the Retirement Fund. So it's not a stretch to see \$80 million going to MPLT under Sixto when they already have over \$100 million that they don't know what to do with when it was meant to help the NMDs. There are no subsidies, extra income for NMDs from the interest earned, like Sen. Edith is trying to make happen, but the Republicans in the Senate won't act on her legislation, and even special scholarships and other forms of help and support for NMDs. *Taya!*

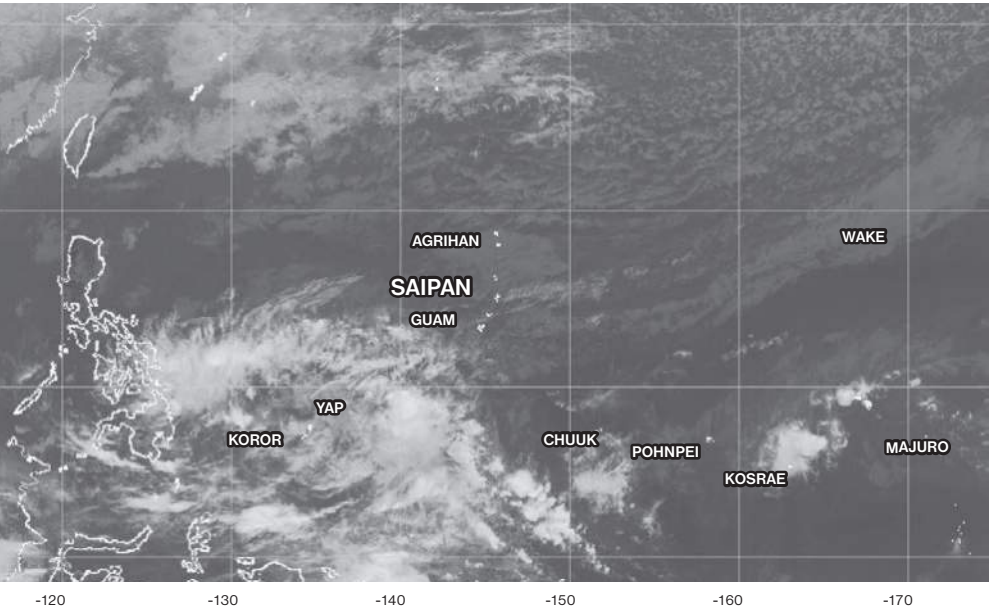
Retirees and NMDs must help to get rid of these Republicans if you are to have any hope of ever being given what is really due to help you. Heck, this Republican administration can't even be fair and take care of the dogs, much less NMDs and retirees. Wake up, retirees and NMDs, and help fix our government.

Ambrose M. Bennett

Kagman III, Saipan

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY	
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers, east winds 15 to 20 mph		Mostly cloudy with isolated showers, east winds 15 to 20 mph		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers		Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers	
85°	76°	85°	76	78°	85°	86°	78°	86°	78°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 8:34 AM, SUNDAY, JANUARY 23, 2022

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

This morning`s visible satellite imagery shows abundant cloud cover across the Marianas, with Doppler radar imagery showing scattered showers crossing the region. The overnight altimetry pass shows seas of 10 to 11 feet in our area, with Ipan showing a water temperature of 83 degrees.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
 - Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
 - Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

onds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mp and, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235.3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Scattered Thunderstorms	28 / 25 °F	
Palau	Thunderstorms	29 / 25 °F	
Yap	Thunderstorms	29 / 26 °F	
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	29 / 26 °F	
Pohnpei	Tunderstorms	29 / 25 °F	
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	30 / 26°F	
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	29 / 27 °F	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	06:47 AM	18:10 PM
Tuesday	06:46 AM	18:11 PM
Wednesday	06:46 AM	18:12 PM
Thursday	06:46 AM	18:12 PM
Friday	06:46 AM	18:13 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	11:00 PM	23:33 PM
Tuesday	-	11:40 PM	05:38 PM
Wednesday	00:28	12:22 PM	06:26 PM
Thursday	01:26	13:09 AM	07:19 PM
Friday	02:27	14:02 PM	08:15

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 17, 2022

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	7:20am	8:05am	2, 4, 6	UA116	5:30am	6:16am	2, 4, 6
UA117	9:50am	10:35am	1, 3, 5, 7	UA174	8:00am	8:46am	1, 3, 5, 7
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
PR 111	6:30am	8:20am	1,3,5,7	PR110	10:15pm	4:00am+1	2,4,6,7
UA183	8:00pm	9:50pm	Daily	UA184	10:40pm	4:30am+1	2, 5
				UA184	10:55pm	4:45am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA117/183	7:20am	9:50pm	2, 4, 6 via Guam	UA184/174	10:40pm	6:16am+1	5 via Guam
UA117/183	9:50am	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via Guam	UA184/174	10:40pm	8:46am+1	2 via Guam
				UA184/174	10:55pm	6:16am+1	1, 3 via Guam
				UA184/174	10:55pm	8:46am+1	4, 6, 7 via Guam
SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)				INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ6243	4:00PM	7:40PM	3, 6	OZ6233	9:00AM	2:30PM	6
				TW9307	10:00AM	2:20PM	4, 5
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3452	2:00PM	5:20PM	2	7C3451	8:00AM	1:00PM	3

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 18, 2021

SAIPAN TO ROTA				ROTA TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Daily	3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Daily
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Daily	3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Daily
1303	1:30PM	2:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri Daily	3103	1:30PM	3:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri Daily
1304	3:30PM	4:00PM		3104	4:30PM	5:00PM	
ROTA TO GUAM				GUAM TO ROTA			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable	4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily	2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily	2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
				2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
				2105	11:30	11:45	Daily
				2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
				2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
				2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
				2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
				2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
				2111	17:30	17:45	Daily
				2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

Islander Rent A Car, Jhen’s Sweet Corner are now ProaPerks partners

Islander Rent A Car and Jhen’s Sweet Corner are the latest companies to sign on as a Northern Marianas College ProaPerks partner, joining many other businesses and organizations that provide exclusive discounts and benefits for Northern Marianas College students, employees, and alumni.

All card-carrying members of the NMC ProaPerks program can now receive a 30% discount Islander Rent A Car on daily regular rates on all vehicles except trucks (valid only on Saipan). At Jhen’s Sweet Corner, all card-carrying members of the NMC ProaPerks program can now receive a free iced tea with any order.

The two companies join the growing list of ProaPerks partners, such as 153 Restaurant, 360 Restaurant, 4EVER CNMI, Alamo Car Rental, AllStar Sporting Goods, Aqua Connections, Inc., Aquasmith, Athlete’s Foot, Avis Rent A Car, BAB Korean Restaurant Cup Bab, Chagi Norf Kitchen, Boarderline, Bolis R US 2, Candle J, Caravan of Food, Casa Decor, Casa Urashima, Chelu Alynez Enterprise, Chungi Wa Korean Restaurant, Clear Water Place, Clear Water Residence, Clear Water Villa, Coral Garden Hotel, Cosmos Lounge, D’ Chef’s



Islander Rent A Car is now a proud NMC ProaPerks partner. More information about their special promotion for ProaPerks card holders can be found at marianas.edu/proaperks.



Jhen’s Sweet Corner is now a proud NMC ProaPerks partner. NMC


Kitchen, Docomo Pacific, Dollar Days, Enterprise Car Rental, Ete Cafe, Fishing Tackle and Sporting Goods, Fork and Spoon, Garapan Restaurant Cafe & Grill, Gold’s Gym, Grandvrio Resort Saipan, Great Harvest, Boyer Trading Company LLC. dba Ginen Saipan, Ha’ani Company, Healing Stones Spa, Highway Express Auto Care Center, Her-

man’s Modern Bakery, Inc., Hertz Rental Car, Hyatt, Ice Island Coffee & Ice Deserts, Hotel Americano, Ina’s Kitchen, International Roller Skates, Isla Shave Ice, Java Joe’s, JC Cafe, Judy’s Cafe & Restaurant, Junlyn Salon, Kentucky Fried Chicken/ Taco Bell, Kiki’s, Latte Built Gym, Lohas Massage, Lohas Nails, Lucky Store, Lucky II Mart, Magbers Snack Bar, Majesty Restaurant, Mama D’s Cafe, Mariana Light-house, Marianas Creation, MMC & Pacific Labs, LLC, Megabyte, Mermaid Restaurant & Milk tea, Micafe Snack Corner, Nam Dae Moon, National Car Rental, Natural Nail & Spa, Neni Girl Nails, NMC Bookstore, Ocean Candy, Ocean Star Restaurant, Pacific Home Appliances, Paradise Den-


tal Spa, Pena House Boutique, Pizzeria Bar & Grill, Pokiyaki, Residence Lodge, Saipan Computer Services, Shirley’s Cafe, Salty’s, Stay Cafe, Summer Snow Cafe & Kids Corner cafe, Summit Auto Repair Shop, Surf Club, Residence Lodge, The Ohala Foundation Clothing, The Pacific Supply, The Shack, Time Creation Corp., Tinian Diamond Hotel, Tom Yum Restaurant, Tribe Mari-

anas, and Triple J Motors.

Companies and other interested organizations who would like to become part of the ProaPerks program and take advantage of the buying power of thousands of individuals that include Northern Marianas College alumni, students, and employees, can find more information by emailing proaperks@marianas.edu. (NMC)



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



JVA No. 22 – 040

Opening Date: January 10, 2022
Closing Date: January 24, 2022

POSITION TITLE:	Warehouse Assistant
DEPARTMENT:	CFO/Warehouse
LOCATION:	Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands, USA
ANNUAL SALARY:	\$16,511.00 to \$22,602.00 per annum, Non- Exempt
CONTRACT:	Not Contracted
POSITION(S):	One (1)

The incumbent will be under the direct supervision of the Chief Financial Officer or his/her designee.

Duties:

- The Warehouse Assistant assists with physical inventories of stock, materials and supplies; takes material counts and/or verifies counts.
- Prepares, packs, and delivers materials and supplies; receives and responds to division and department material needs and requests.
- Loads and unloads materials and supplies; assists with offloading containers and materials; operates forklift as needed.
- Verifies quantities and quality of materials received; prepares receiving documents and reports; routes and delivers paperwork.
- Maintains order and in worksites and warehouse areas; stocks and restocks inventory materials in designated bin locations; may assist in determining whether materials are scrapped or salvaged.
- Prepares and issues materials for air, sea or postal delivery; reviews pick lists and verifies quantities and material accuracy.
- Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

Minimum Requirements:
Education: High School Diploma, General Education Diploma, or Adult Basic Education.

Knowledge of: Customer service principles; Basic mathematical concepts; Safety procedures and safe work practices; Modern office technology.


Skills in: Preparing, packing, issuing and delivering materials and supplies; Verifying material quantities and quality; Providing attention to detail; Operating heavy and light equipment machinery, hand and power tools required of assigned area; Adhering to safety procedures and safe work practices; Prioritizing tasks and managing time for efficiency; Identifying issues and solving problems; Providing attention to detail; Taking equipment readings and recording data; Maintaining activity logs and reports; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

• **Licensing:**
o Valid U.S. Driver’s License with appropriate class;


• **Physical Demands:**
Occasional lifting of object; Subject to standing, walking, sitting, bending, reaching, kneeling, pushing and pulling.

All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

How to Apply: You may submit your CUC Employment Application and/or resume at the Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, from Monday to Friday, 7:30am – 4:30pm. Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota can drop it off at the Tinian and Rota Administration office. Application and resume can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



JVA No. 22 – 041

Opening Date: January 11, 2022
Closing Date: January 25, 2022

POSITION TITLE:	Trades Assistant
DEPARTMENT:	Water Division
LOCATION:	Rota, Northern Marianas Islands, USA
ANNUAL SALARY:	\$16,742.00 - \$22,602.00 per annum, Non-Exempt
CONTRACT:	Not Contracted
POSITION(S):	One (1)

The incumbent will be under the direct supervision of the Resident Manager or his/her designee.

Duties:

- Assists with installations, repairs and general maintenance in assigned service area; operates motorized vehicles, equipment machinery, and hand and power tools.
- Performs routine and preventative maintenance on equipment, vehicles, systems and/or infrastructure; performs basic inspections; and conducts basic troubleshooting of issues.
- Responds to trouble calls as needed.
- Prepares job site for work including gathering and setting up materials and supplies, and setting work safety barriers for protection and to direct traffic flow away from work site.
- Gathers, cleans and returns equipment, materials and supplies used.
- Cleans and maintains work site after project or repair work is complete.
- Monitors equipment; takes readings and collects data; documents equipment readings; prepares and submits data and work reports.
- Performs inventory spot checks to ensure adequate materials and supplies are available for daily maintenance activities.
- Performing daily well and pump station facility maintenance, cleaning and monitoring;
- Assisting plumbing and chlorine maintenance crew;
- Utilizing digging equipment for locating and repairing leaks;
- Repairing and securing pressure reducer valves, main valves, service lines and laterals, and booster pumps;
- Assisting with meter installation and repair;
- Collecting water samples.
- Must be able to lift objects weighing at 40 lbs. or more.
- Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

Minimum Requirements:
Education: High School Diploma or GED or ABE Program AS Diploma.

Knowledge of: Customer service principles; Basic mathematical concepts; Safety procedures and safe work practices; Modern office technology.

Skills in: Providing customer service; Reading maps and drawings; Operating heavy and light equipment machinery, hand and power tools required of assigned area; Adhering to safety procedures and safe work practices; Prioritizing tasks and managing time for efficiency; Identifying issues and solving problems; Providing attention to detail; Taking equipment readings and recording data; Maintaining activity logs and reports; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

• **Licensing:**
o Valid CNMI Driver’s License with appropriate class.
All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

How to Apply: Submit a completed CUC Employment Application, resume, and applicable supporting documents to the CUC Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, Monday through Friday 7:30 am – 4:30 pm (Except Legal Holidays). Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota may submit their documents to their respective CUC Administration office. Application, resume and supporting documents can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org

NMHC hands out disinfecting and sanitizing supplies

The Northern Marianas Housing Corp. distributed disinfecting and sanitizing supplies to its tenants in the Mihaville and Koblerville subdivisions last Jan. 14, 2022. With the surge of positive COVID-19 cases, NMHC felt the need to educate its tenants on the virus and the steps to take to prepare, prevent, and respond to the corona virus by also distributing Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guideline brochures.



Mobil Oil Mariana Islands, Inc. (Mobil) is a subsidiary of Exxon Mobil Corporation – one of the world’s largest publicly traded international oil and gas company, which holds an industry-leading inventory of resources and is one of the world’s largest integrated refiners, marketers of petroleum products and chemical manufacturers. This is your opportunity to join this dynamic company and become part of the team that thrives in a fast-paced, controls-oriented environment as:

Terminal Operator - Tinian

Job Description:
Performs day to day activities to safely operate a petroleum distribution facility. Maintains SSH&E (Safety, Security, Health and Environment) standards pursuant to local and federal regulations and company’s policies, procedures and guidelines. Performs operations of marine tanker receiving, bunkering, tank truck loading, pipeline transfer, product quality testing, handling and storage of bulk and packaged petroleum products while delivering premier product quality and customer service.

Location:
• Tinian Bulk Plant, Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands

- Job Duties:**
- Executes and complies with company’s operational procedures and systems, policies and guidelines by using terminal manuals and procedures, loss prevention tools, and corporate & industry standards.
 - Conducts routine facility inspections. Maintains housekeeping and conducts maintenance and repairs to ensure safe operating conditions.
 - Performs safe marine terminal operations, shore to ship and ship to shore transfers of bulk petroleum products, tank truck loading, pipeline transfers and product quality testing.
 - Adheres to safety and environmental programs. Takes a dynamic and proactive approach to protect the environment and the safety, health and security of employees, customers and public.
 - Administratively prepares and submits regulatory and internal reports associated with the handling, storage and product movement of the petroleum distribution terminal. Performs oil loss monitoring duties.
 - Interfaces with third party contractors, local and federal government agencies, internal and external customers and ExxonMobil’s global network system.
 - Conducts simple math calculations and conversions of temperature, weights and measures.

- Job Requirements:**
- Experience in safe petroleum handling, distribution and storage or related field
 - Familiarity with computer applications in spreadsheet and word processing (i.e., MS Word and Excel)
 - Understanding of U.S. federal and local regulations as applicable to petroleum handling, storage, and distribution
 - Ability to work shifts based on a 24-hour work day, work extended hours, weekends, and holidays
 - Good interpersonal skills, ability to communicate verbally and in writing in English

Preference will be given to candidates with relevant experience in marine terminal operations and with previous experience in petroleum industry

If you are interested in and/or meet the qualifications for this position, please submit your resume on or before January 31, 2022 to the following:

Attention to:
Ramon Villagomez,
Field Operations Manager-CNMI
P.O. Box 500367 CK, Saipan, MP 96950
Fax: (670) 236-8190
Email: ramon.villagomez@exxonmobil.com
Mobil

Mobil is an Equal Opportunity Employer

All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, citizenship status, age, genetic information, protected veteran, physical or mental disability.



World

Latin America, Asia latest to get hit with omicron surge

WORLD BRIEFS

1 NYPD officer killed, 1 severely injured in Harlem shooting

NEW YORK (AP)—A New York City police officer was killed and another critically wounded Friday night while answering a call about an argument between a woman and her adult son, officials said, making four officers shot in the city in as many days. Just three weeks into their jobs, Mayor Eric Adams—a former police captain himself—and Police Commissioner Keechant Sewell stood before the media at a Harlem hospital, denouncing the spate of violence against the New York Police Department. “Countless officers lined this hallway after carrying him in and grieve for their brother while praying with everything they have for the other” officer, Sewell said. “I am struggling to find the words to express the tragedy we are enduring. We’re mourning, and we’re angry.”

Britain says Russia seeking to replace Ukraine government

LONDON (AP)—The British government on Saturday accused Russia of seeking to replace Ukraine’s government with a pro-Moscow administration, and said former Ukrainian lawmaker Yevheniy Murayev is being considered as a potential candidate. Murayev is head of the small pro-Russian party Nashi, which currently has no seats in Ukraine’s parliament. Britain’s Foreign Office named several other Ukrainian politicians it said had links with Russian intelligence services. It’s unclear what means Britain believes Russia might use to install a friendly government in Kyiv. The U.K. government made the claim based on an intelligence assessment, without providing evidence to back it up. It comes amid a war of words between Moscow and the West over Russia’s designs on Ukraine.

Vaccine passport protests in Europe draw thousands of people

HELSINKI (AP)—Thousands of people gathered in European capitals Saturday to protest vaccine passports and other requirements governments have imposed in hopes of ending the coronavirus pandemic. Demonstra-

tions took place in Athens, Helsinki, London, Paris and Stockholm. Marches in Paris drew hundreds of demonstrators protesting the introduction from Monday of a new COVID-19 pass. It will severely restrict the lives of those who refuse to get vaccinated by banning them from domestic flights, sports events, bars, cinemas and other leisure venues. French media reported that demonstrators also marched by the hundreds in other cities.

Fire in residential building kills 6, injures 15 in Mumbai

NEW DELHI (AP)—A major fire in a 19-story residential building killed at least six people and injured 15 others on Saturday in Mumbai, India’s financial and entertainment capital, officials said. The fire was caused by a short-circuit in an air conditioner in one of the apartments, Mumbai Mayor Kishori Pednekar said. Residents said the fire started on the 15th floor and a big column of black smoke soon enveloped the building. More than 90 people escaped the building on their own or helped by neighbors, they said. Ganesh Purnaik, a spokesman for the city government, said the fire left six people dead and 15 hospitalized with injuries.

First flights leave Chinese city Xi’an as travel curbs ease

BEIJING (AP)—The first commercial airline flights in one month took off Saturday from Xi’an in western China as the government eased travel curbs imposed after a coronavirus outbreak ahead of next month’s Winter Olympics in Beijing. Seven planes took off, according to the website of Xi’an Xianyang International Airport. It said four were due to arrive Sunday. Access to Xi’an, a city of 13 million people about 1,000 kilometers (600 miles) southwest of Beijing, was suspended Dec. 22 following an outbreak attributed to the coronavirus’s delta variant. The ruling Communist Party has stepped up enforcement of its “zero tolerance” strategy that aims to keep the virus out of China by finding and isolating every infected person. It suspended access to Xi’an and other cities after outbreaks were found.

SAN JOSE, Costa Rica (AP)—In Costa Rica, officials are encouraging those infected with the coronavirus to skip voting in upcoming national elections. On the other side of the world, Beijing is locking down residential communities as the country anxiously awaits the start of the Winter Olympics on Feb. 4.

In Latin America and Asia, where the omicron variant is making its latest appearance, some countries are imposing such restrictions while others are loath to place new limits on populations already exhausted by previous constraints.

Omicron quickly swept through the places it first hit, such as South Africa, the U.K. and the United States, pushing daily cases far higher than at any time during the pandemic.

The Americas reported nearly 7.2 million new COVID infections and more than 15,000 COVID-related deaths over the past week, the Pan American Health Organization said Wednesday. Coronavirus infections across the Americas almost doubled between Jan. 1 and Jan. 8, from 3.4 million cases to 6.1 million, PAHO said.

Infections are accelerating

in Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia and Peru, and hospitalizations are rising in Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay, said PAHO Director Carissa Etienne. The Caribbean islands are experiencing their steepest increase in COVID-19 cases since the start of the pandemic, Etienne noted.

“Although omicron infections appear to be milder, we continue to urge caution because the virus is spreading more actively than ever before,” Etienne said.

Infections are also increasing in Asia, including in the Philippines, which has seen its

worst coronavirus outbreak in recent weeks.

Countries in both regions are searching for a mix of restrictions that their exhausted populations will accept and that won’t inflict undue damage on their economies.

“We’re already going on three years of the pandemic and the population is tired,” said Brazil’s president of the Council of State Health Secretariats, Carlos Lula. “There is no space for many restrictions. We’re going to have to face a third wave with precautions like masking, distancing and vaccination.”

BIG SUR WILDFIRE

The Colorado Fire burns along Highway 1 near Big Sur, Calif., Saturday, Jan. 22, 2022. Firefighters on Saturday were battling a wildfire that broke out in the rugged mountains along Big Sur, forcing hundreds of residents on this precarious stretch of the California coast to evacuate and authorities to shut its main roadway.

AP PHOTO/NIC CORY



GUAM & COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

WEBEX MEETING JANUARY 25, 2022

U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs Honolulu Regional Office - Public Contact Team

Will host a Virtual Benefits Workshop for Veterans, Family Members, Surviving Spouses, and Community Providers

on

TUESDAY, JANUARY 25, 2022

From

4PM-6PM (GUAM & CNMI LOCAL TIME)

To participate please join us in Cisco Webex by clicking or copying and pasting the below links into your browser:

****DOWNLOAD SLIDES at:** <https://www.benefits.va.gov/honolulu/>

<https://veteransaffairs.webex.com/veteransaffairs/j.php?MTID=me68c6ce794ebaa51bdfda1d6d447766f>

You can join via Computer, Phone Audio (1-404-397-1596, 27628349031##), or Webex Mobile App. Meeting Password: D6PtTMBG5*2



Benefits Workshop Topics:

Compensation, Service Connection, Pension, Homeless, COD, MST, Women Veterans, Education & Training, Veteran Readiness & Employment, Home Loan Guaranty, DIC, Survivors' Pension, & Burial and Plot Internment Allowance

Health & Wellness

This advertorial
is sponsored by



Safeway pharmacist Ashley McGee fills a syringe with the Pfizer COVID-19 booster vaccination at a vaccination booster shot clinic on Oct. 1, 2021 in San Rafael, California. JUSTIN SULLIVAN/GETTY IMAGES/TNS

The U.S. hasn't yet reached a national peak in the surge of the omicron variant. But experts say it is coming soon. COVID-19 cases are beginning to plateau in certain parts of the country.

Mayo Clinic's Predictive Analytics Task Force has been tracking COVID-19 cases in the U.S. since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. Experts have been involved in building and maintaining predictive modeling for COVID-19 that allows clinic leaders to make informed decisions about hospital operations.

Dr. Curtis Storlie, a Mayo Clinic data scientist who is on

the task force, says he anticipates a peak to occur before the end of January. Shortly after that, the modeling shows an abrupt decline in COVID-19 cases.

"It doesn't mean, OK, everything's behind us. People are still going to get infected on the way down—just as many on the way down as on the way up. And some of those (infections) are going to produce severe illness. It's not something to take lightly," says Dr. Storlie. "But we will likely not have subsequent peaks. We're likely going to be heading down for the foreseeable future."

"The future beyond that becomes a little bit more uncertain

Mayo Clinic modeling reveals expected peak, rapid drop in COVID-19 cases

due to two factors. Primarily, what is the evolution of the virus? And what's that going to look like four months from now? We just can't really say. The other uncertainty is how willing is the population as a whole to embrace boosters and get on a regular schedule with that?"

He says the highly contagious omicron variant caused the number of COVID-19 cases to skyrocket over the past two months.

"Omicron is not something we want to take lightly just be-

cause it's causing less severe illness or even if you and your family are healthy and boosted," says Dr. Storlie. "It's not something to fear. However, what we do want to worry about is particularly spreading it to others. Others may be trying to avoid it because they're one of these folks that are immunosuppressed or have other significant underlying health conditions, and they're trying their best to avoid it. If too many of us get it all at once, it doesn't give them much of a chance to avoid it."

Despite the expected decline in COVID-19 cases, Dr. Storlie says everyone should take the necessary precautions, including masking, vaccinations and booster vaccinations, to prevent a surge from another variant in the future.

Information in this post was accurate at the time of its posting. Due to the fluid nature of the COVID-19 pandemic, scientific understanding, along with guidelines and recommendations, may have changed since the original publication date.

Is it better to wear an N95 or cloth mask right now?

By EMMA H. TOBIN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK (AP)—Is it better to wear an N95 or cloth mask right now?

Health experts suggest stepping up protection against the highly contagious omicron variant with stronger masks such as N95s or KN95s.

It's especially important now with health care systems under strain, and with people in higher-risk situations such as crowded, indoor settings for extended periods, says Linsey Marr, who studies viruses at Virginia Tech.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recently updated its guidance to recommend the kinds of masks used by health care workers, but also noted it's important to pick a mask that fits well and that you'll wear



consistently.

"Our main message continues to be that any mask is better than no mask," CDC spokeswoman Kristen Nordlund said in a statement.

Previously, the CDC had said N95 masks should be reserved for health care workers because of supply shortages. There's a special category of "surgical N95" masks that are generally not available for sale to the public that the CDC says should continued to be reserved for health care settings.

N95s have a tighter fit to your face than cloth masks and are made with a special material designed to block 95% of harmful particles. The fibers are pressed closer together than in cloth masks and have an electrostatic charge that attracts molecules to stick to the mask rather than passing through.

KN95s and KF94s offer a similar level of protection. A full list of masks that meet an international quality standard is available on the

CDC website.

But be careful when buying. The counterfeit market is huge, and about 60% of KN95s in the U.S. are fake and do not meet quality standards, according to the CDC.

It's hard to tell just by looking if a mask is counterfeit, so experts suggest buying directly from reputable sellers. Project N95 is also a known seller of valid brands, and Marr says she buys masks through industrial suppliers like Grainger or McMaster-Carr.

If you find certain N95s difficult to wear for long periods, experts suggest exploring the different shapes and styles available to see what works best for you.

The AP is answering your questions about the coronavirus in this series. Submit them at: FactCheck@AP.org.

Dermatologist discusses male-pattern baldness

By JASON HOWLAND
MAYO CLINIC NEWS NETWORK

You look in the mirror and notice you're going bald. It's a reality that many men must face.

Dr. Dawn Davis, a Mayo Clinic dermatologist, says there's a reason why many men lose their hair as they age. And in some cases, there are solutions.

"You can have androgenetic alopecia," says Dr. Davis.

It's a genetic condition also known as male- or female-pattern baldness. It's a common form of hair loss, especially for men. And as the name implies, hair loss occurs in a well-defined pattern.

"First, they'll notice thin-

ning around the temples, and then that continues to recede backward toward the back of the scalp. Those areas then

eventually meet with a balding spot near the hair whorl in the back of the crown of the scalp," says Dr. Davis.



Male-pattern baldness is a reality many men face, but in some cases there are solutions.

Some men embrace their baldness, but those who want to treat their hair loss should talk with a hair specialist, such as a dermatologist.

"There are medicated shampoos, topical prescription medications, oral medications and immune system medications that we can use to help people with their alopecia based on the type of hair loss," she says.

There are also over-the-counter pills, liquids, foams and shampoos that can promote hair growth or slow the rate of that receding hairline.

"It's not a one-size-fits-all model. But for some common disorders, there are some over-the-counter things you can do," says Dr. Davis.

Healthy Living

Sugar count

The glycemic index (GI) ranks carbohydrates according to how they affect blood sugar and insulin.

The numbers

- Using a scale of 0 to 100 (100 equals pure glucose), the index shows how quickly foods cause blood sugar to rise
- Rise in blood sugar signals the body to secrete insulin to lower the sugar level, primarily by converting excess sugar to stored fat

Higher number, faster rise

GI for average portion of some foods

Banana	52
Oreo cookie	64
White bread	70
Baked potato	85

Source: Harvard Health Publications, Nutrition Data Graphic: TNS



Life & Style

Meat Loaf, 'Bat Out of Hell' rock superstar, dies at 74

NEW YORK (AP)—Meat Loaf, the heavyweight rock superstar loved by millions for his “Bat Out of Hell” album and for such theatrical, dark-hearted anthems as “Paradise By the Dashboard Light,” “Two Out of Three Ain’t Bad,” and “I’d Do Anything for Love (But I Won’t Do That),” has died. He was 74.

The singer born Marvin Lee Aday died Thursday, according to a family statement provided by his longtime agent Michael Greene.

“Our hearts are broken to announce that the incomparable Meat Loaf passed away tonight,” the statement said. “We know how much he meant to so many of you and we truly appreciate all of the love and support as we move through this time



Singer Meat Loaf performs in support of Republican presidential candidate and former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney at the football stadium at Defiance High School in Defiance, Ohio, Thursday, Oct. 25, 2012.

of grief in losing such an inspiring artist and beautiful man... From his heart to

your souls... don’t ever stop rocking!” No cause or other details

were given, but Aday had numerous health scares over the years.

Priyanka Chopra, Nick Jonas welcome first child

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Baby Jonas is here.

Priyanka Chopra Jonas and her husband Nick Jonas announced on their Instagram pages Friday that they welcomed their first child together. She said a surrogate gave birth to the couple’s baby on Jan. 15.

“We are overjoyed to confirm that we have welcomed a baby via surrogate,” the couple’s statement said.

The couple did not reveal their baby’s name or sex and asked for privacy “during this special time as we focus on our family.”

In 2018, the couple married in India after dating for four months.



Priyanka Chopra Jonas, left, and husband Nick Jonas attend the world premiere of “Chasing Happiness,” in Los Angeles on June 3, 2019. Chopra Jonas and Jonas announced on their Instagram pages Friday, Jan. 21, 2022, that they welcomed their first baby together. She said a surrogate gave birth to the couple’s baby on Jan. 15.

“Bat Out of Hell,” his mega-selling collaboration with songwriter Jim Steinman and producer Todd Rundgren, came out in 1977 and made him one of the most recognizable performers in rock. Fans fell hard for the roaring vocals of the long-haired, 250-plus pound singer and for the comic non-romance of the title track, “You Took The Words Right Out of My Mouth,” “Two Out of Three Ain’t Bad” and “Paradise By the Dashboard Light,” an operatic cautionary tale about going all the way.

“Paradise” was a duet with Ellen Foley about two

kids “barely 17” and “barely dressed,” featuring play-by-play from New York Yankees broadcaster Phil Rizzuto, who alleged—to much skepticism—that he was unaware of any alternate meanings to reaching third base and heading for home. Speaking to The Associated Press on Friday, Foley remembered him as “larger than life” and noted the role “Paradise” had in the lives of fans and how they told of losing their virginity to it or singing it at special occasions: “I did it at karaoke, at my wedding, at my high school reunion, at my Bar Mitzvah.”

Arnold Schwarzenegger ‘fine’ following four-car crash in LA

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A spokesman said Arnold Schwarzenegger was fine after being involved in a car crash that sent a woman to the hospital with minor injuries.

The 74-year-old actor and former California governor was driving a GMC Yukon that was among four vehicles involved in Friday’s wreck in the Brentwood section of Los Angeles.

A woman was taken to the hospital for an abrasion on her head, police said in a statement.

The statement from the LAPD said neither alcohol or drugs are suspected as a factor in this collision, but did not mention the cause of the crash.

Schwarzenegger was not injured and stayed at the scene, spokesman Daniel Ketchell said Saturday.

Ian Alexander Jr., only child of Regina King, dies at age 26

NEW YORK (AP)—Ian Alexander Jr., the only child of award-winning actor and director Regina King, has died. He turned 26 on Wednesday.

“Our family is devastated at the deepest level by the loss of Ian,” a family statement shared Saturday by a King spokesman said. “He is such a bright light who cared so deeply about the happiness of others. Our family asks for respectful consideration during

this private time.”

The spokesman confirmed the death was suicide. No further details were released.

The “One Night in Miami” director shared Alexander with her former husband, record producer Ian Alexander Sr. The two divorced in 2007 after 10 years of marriage. The younger Alexander was a musician and DJ who often accompanied King to red carpet events.

Woman ready to dress down her sister in family dustup

DEAR ABBY: I’m one of three sisters. My mother passed away more than 10 years ago. My middle sister has my mom’s wedding dress and says Mom gave it to her. My daughter is now engaged. I asked my sister to mail me the dress or, when I visit, I can carry it back myself so my daughter can try it on. We live in the U.S.; my sister lives in Canada. My daughter would not alter it in any way, she would just like to take a photograph in it and have a special moment with it. My sister has refused.

Is this right? It feels like such an ugly, selfish decision. She has three daughters and wants it for them, which I can understand. But how does my daughter trying it on take away from that? I’m having a hard time with this, and I would like to know your thoughts. How can I take the high road but let her know she took the low road and I’m disappointed in her? I don’t think she has the corner on the market for caring about our mother just because she got married before I did and has the dress.

DRAMA ABOUT THE DRESS

DEAR DRAMA: If you want to take the “high road,” omit any geographic reference to her refusal. Just say that you and your daughter are “very disappointed” by her reaction and, had the situation been reversed, you would have been “more generous.”

You might also consider visiting your sister and bringing your daughter with you, if your sister agrees, so she can try on the dress there. I wish you luck.

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I are friends with another couple (“Allen” and “Laura”) we enjoy very much. We live about an hour apart, so we don’t see them as often as we’d like. When we do make plans, Laura almost always invites along her sister and her husband. While they are a nice couple, we would sometimes prefer it be just the four of us.

We are spending the winter in another state and have invited them to come for a visit. Laura is already hinting around about wanting to invite her sister and husband. How do I politely handle this?

CROWDED IN THE EAST

DEAR CROWDED: Handle this by “politely” telling Laura that you and your husband would prefer it just be a foursome this time, and “perhaps another time” you can include her sister. Period!

DEAR ABBY: I’ve wanted to be a pilot for a long time. But because of my medical history and my need to be on medicine, both of which are disqualifying, it’s not possible. I have been good at handwriting comparisons as a hobby, specifically in legal cases, although I am unpaid. Also, I

DEAR ABBY

By Abigail Van Buren
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



may get a job as a mail clerk at a federal department.

How can I move past this major disappointment where I’m grounded (job-wise) for life? I pray, and have given free psychic readings. I’d like to find love but I struggle with emotional regulation. Please help.

ALL OVER THE PLACE

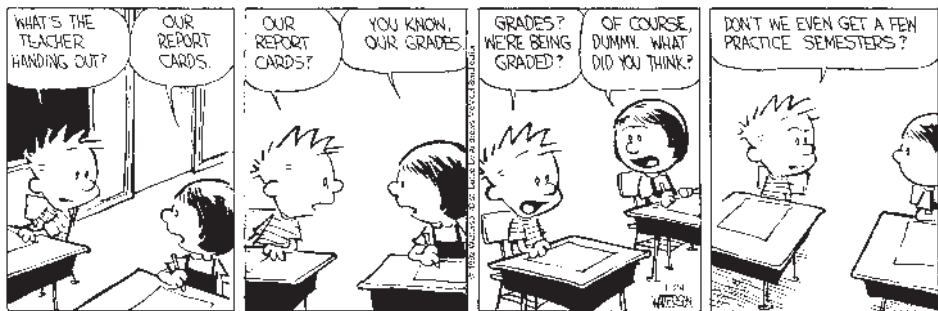
DEAR ALL OVER: Your first order of “business” needs to be finding a job you can enjoy other than flying. Once that’s done and you are on firm financial footing, explore those hobbies of yours. Rewarding relationships are based on mutual interests.

Between your job and your hobbies, you may meet someone with whom you can have a romantic relationship.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



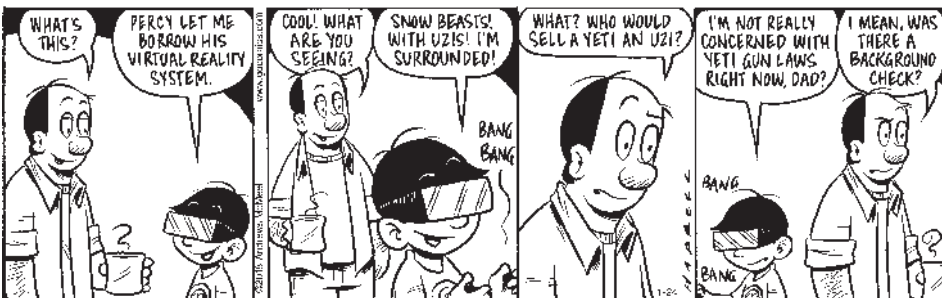
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



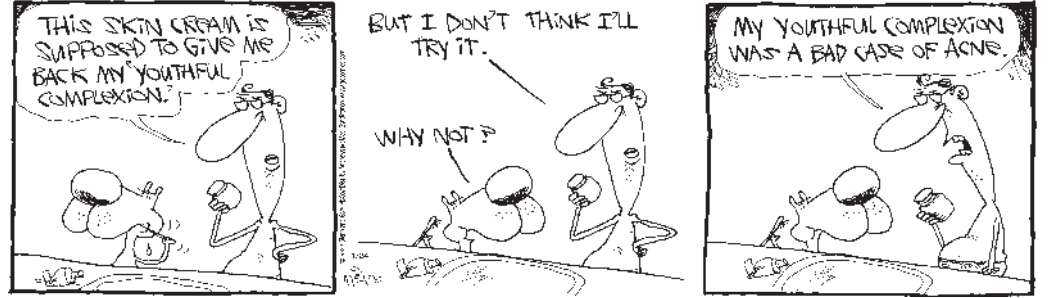
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS			
1 Reddish brown	39 Rocker Nugent	DOWN	19 Sleep like —
5 \$ dispenser	41 Minnesota	2 "Nopel!"	22 Treble clef
8 Cries of aversion	42 Penniless one	3 Rani's dress	24 Bristle lines
12 Spiced tea	45 Fearsome fly	4 Royal crowns	25 Caviar base
13 Goat's plaint	49 Relaxing time on the slopes	5 Vast rainforest region	26 Fabric features
14 Entreaty	51 Equitable	6 — chi	27 Calming drug
15 Mystique	52 "Understood"	7 Painter Chagall	29 Tax pro
16 Blue Angels events	53 Lucy's TV pal	8 Supported	30 Mess up
18 Australian red wine	54 Forearm bone	9 Acting smug	33 Bygone jets
20 Fedora feature	55 Minus	10 Hacks with an axe	36 Prairie homes
21 Medicinal plant	56 Season opener?	11 Postpaid enc.	38 Of service
23 PC key	57 Some July babies	17 Mexican Mrs.	40 —
24 Schubert compositions			42 Beach bucket

Solution time: 21 mins.

C	J	B	I	C	U	P	S	H	O	T
P	O	T	A	T	O	R	E	T	Y	P
E	H	A	S	E	R	G	H	A	P	E
N	E	H	I	A	H	E	M	E	N	T
E	L	Z	A	S	S	R				
A	B	S	A	R	I	A	A	I	D	E
I	E	T	S	G	E	T	T	O	W	R
L	A	I	R	D	I	O	R	N	Y	E
P	A	D	A	M	E	S				
A	C	E	O	M	N	I	L	S	A	
M	A	N	A	N	A	Z	I	N	G	E
B	A	D	G	U	Y	E	N	A	B	L
I	N	S	E	T	S	R	A	T	A	

Saturday's answer 1-24

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12				13				14		
15				16				17		
18				19			20			
			21			22		23		
24	25	26				27		28	29	30
31				32			33		34	
35			36		37			38		
		39		40		41				
42	43				44		45		46	47
48					50			51		
52					53			54		
55					56			57		

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Misha Barton, 36; Tatyana Ali, 43; Ed Helms, 48; Neil Diamond, 81.

Happy Birthday: Stop fretting and start moving. Rethink your financial strategy, and figure out how to stretch your money to fit your budget. Put a plan in place that is regimented, and you'll feel optimistic about the future and how you can improve your standard of living. Follow what feels right, not what someone else is doing. Find your happy place. Your numbers are 4, 11, 21, 26, 32, 38, 43.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You know what you want and how to get your way. Use your intelligence and ability to persuade others to see things your way. Don't take a risk regarding your physical and emotional well-being. Live by the rules. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): A pointed opinion will help you stay on track and ensure no one gets the wrong impression. Consider what's possible, and stay on track until you reach your destination. Link your success to what you achieve, not empty promises. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Your vision will be on target, and reaching your dreams is closer than you think. Dedication and discipline will help you stay focused on what's important to you and ward off anyone who tries to get in your way. *****

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Be careful what you share with others. Someone will take advantage of you if you put yourself in a vulnerable position. Keep your secrets to yourself, and focus on exploring new in-

terests and expanding your knowledge. Romance is featured. **

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Team up with someone who brings out the best in you. Discuss your ideas, work through any discrepancies you have before proceeding. Being on the same page will be advantageous in regard to making money. A contract looks promising. ****

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Make alterations that encourage productivity. A pleasing workspace will give you the push needed to be creative. Raising the bar will encourage others to try harder. Be a team player, and you'll excel. Choose to get along. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Pursue what makes you feel passionate. Don't lag in hopes someone will do the tedious work for you. Doing your fair share will lead to success. Channel your intelligence and experience, and something good will develop. Be a leader, not a follower. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Emotions will surface if a disagreement unfolds. Recognize all sides of a situation, and keep the peace. Make subtle changes that don't affect others; you will enjoy getting results without interference. A positive change at home will add to your comfort. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You'll dazzle someone who can influence your position. Consider what you want to do, and update your qualifications and resume to suit your needs. Don't oversell yourself, or your success will be short-lived. Update your

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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appearance and overall image. *****

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Look past what's right in front of you, and you'll see the big picture and know exactly how to handle confusing or unorthodox situations. An unexpected gesture you make will take someone by surprise and put you in a good mood. **

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Don't tangle with someone unpredictable. Watch from a distance, and you'll learn what not to do when confusion and uncertainty take over. Wisdom comes with experience, knowledge and restraint. Be the one who exudes reason, honesty and practicality. *****

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Pay attention to the reactions you get from others. Adjust to accommodate those who aren't happy with what's happening. Focus on compromising, having integrity and getting results that keep the peace. Do what's best for the majority. ***

Birthday Baby: You are sensitive, unique and resourceful. You are hesitant and questioning. ☹: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ☺: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ☻: Focus and you'll reach your goals. *****: Aim high; start new projects. *****: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

4	8		7	6		1	3
3		5				2	8
			5				
			3	6	8	7	
9			8				5
1		8	9	7			
				9			
6		2			3	4	
7	5		4	3	6	2	

Difficulty Level ★

1/24

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

5	9	3	8	4	7	1	6	2
4	1	8	6	5	2	7	3	9
6	7	2	9	1	3	8	4	5
9	4	6	1	8	5	2	7	3
3	8	1	7	2	9	6	5	4
7	2	5	4	3	6	9	8	1
8	5	4	2	6	1	3	9	7
1	6	9	3	7	4	5	2	8
2	3	7	5	9	8	4	1	6

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

ADAPTING TO A CHANGING WORKPLACE

Solution: 7 letters

Q	A	E	U	L	A	V	E	E	Y	O	L	P	M	E
U	T	T	O	I	E	C	N	A	T	S	I	D	N	
E	T	A	E	A	S	A	L	A	R	Y	F	I	L	I
S	O	V	L	A	C	N	M	A	S	K	S	A	E	L
T	M	O	D	I	M	I	O	E	F	B	O	Y	I	N
I	A	N	I	E	F	W	N	I	R	G	Y	N	H	O
O	T	N	G	E	L	I	O	U	T	I	T	A	S	T
N	I	I	M	R	I	C	R	M	A	I	P	S	R	
R	O	U	T	I	N	E	V	A	K	M	C	M	K	O
R	N	C	A	T	T	E	T	E	T	F	O	O	I	P
E	E	S	L	U	S	E	L	U	R	I	F	C	I	P
E	S	D	M	L	A	P	T	O	P	Y	O	A	L	U
R	S	M	A	T	E	S	D	N	I	M	N	T	S	
A	O	S	S	E	N	I	S	U	B	F	O	C	U	S
C	B	H	E	A	L	T	H	T	N	U	O	C	C	A

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1/24

Account, Automation, Boss, Business, Career, City, Communicate, Commute, Company, Computer, Curbside, Delivery, Digital, Distance, Email, Employee, Focus, Goal, Health, Innovate, Laptop, Leader, Location, Mask, Mindset, Online, Plan, Qualification, Question, Routine, Rules, Salary, Shield, Skill, Staff, Support, Teamwork, Time, Value

Last Saturday's Answer: Fresh

To purchase WONDERWORD books, visit www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

Gould's FG gives 49ers 13-10 upset of Packers



GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP)—Robbie Gould lived up to his name.

On a field littered with snow flurries, Gould made a 45-yard field goal Saturday night as time expired that knocked off the top-seeded Packers 13-10 and possibly ended Aaron Rodgers' tenure in Green Bay.

Gould has made all 20 of his career playoff field-goal attempts. His latest helped the 49ers complete an improbable comeback by scoring 10 unanswered points in the last five minutes.

"I always trust Robbie. He's as good as gold, man," Niners quarterback Jimmy Garoppolo said. "He always is."

The 49ers (12-7) continued their postseason hex on Rodgers and advanced to an NFC championship game matchup Jan. 30 at either the Tampa Bay Buccaneers (14-4) or Los Angeles Rams (13-5). Those teams play Sunday in Tampa.

This marks the 17th conference championship appearance for the 49ers, the most by any team since conferences were formed in the 1970 merger. The 49ers had been tied with the Pittsburgh Steelers.

San Francisco's win, coupled with the Cincinnati Bengals' 19-16 victory over the Tennessee Titans earlier in the day, marked the first time both No. 1 seeds lost in the divisional round in the same season since 2010. Green Bay won at Atlanta and the New York Jets won at New England that season.



San Francisco 49ers' Robbie Gould celebrates after making the game-winning field goal during the second half of an NFC divisional playoff NFL football game against the Green Bay Packers Saturday, Jan. 22, 2022, in Green Bay, Wis.

"It's dangerous, man. When a team gets hot, it's dangerous," Garoppolo added. "So we've just got to keep this thing going, focus on next week now, and keep this thing rolling."

Rodgers went 20 of 29 for 225 yards and dropped to 0-4 in career playoff starts against the 49ers. He's the first quarterback in NFL history to lose four playoff starts to a single opponent.

He now enters an uncertain offseason. After skipping the Packers' mandatory minicamp in a standoff with management, Rodgers said he was uncertain whether this would be his last year in Green Bay. Rodgers said last month he

was keeping all options open.

Rodgers didn't want to speculate on his future Saturday night, though he said he didn't want to be part of a rebuild if he keeps playing.

"I don't think it's fair to anybody or myself to really go down those paths at this point," Rodgers said. "It's disappointing, sad and fresh. I'll have conversations in the next week or so and start to contemplate after that."

The Packers (13-5) earned the NFC's top seed for a second straight season and were the league's only unbeaten team at home, but again failed to reach the big game. They haven't made it to the

Super Bowl since their 2010 championship season.

"I just didn't envision it like this," said Green Bay's Aaron Jones, who had nine catches for 129 yards and 12 carries for 41 yards.

San Francisco tied the game with 4:41 left thanks to a breakdown by Green Bay's special teams, the Packers' biggest weakness all season.

Jordan Willis' outstretched left hand blocked a punt by Corey Bojorquez, who was kicking from the front of his end zone. Talanoa Hufanga picked up the ball at the 6-yard line and ran it in to make it 10-10.

After the Packers went three-and-out, the 49ers got

the ball back at their 29 with 3:20 left and drove into field-goal range. Deebo Samuel delivered a 9-yard run on third-and-7 from the Green Bay 38, and the 49ers ran down the clock to set up Gould.

A.J. Dillon's 6-yard touchdown run capped a 69-yard drive on the game's opening possession that put the Packers ahead 7-0. Green Bay's offense didn't do much of anything after that.

Green Bay's special teams fared even worse.

Well before that blocked punt, San Francisco's Jimmie Ward blocked a 39-yard field-goal attempt from Mason Crosby on the final play

of the first half, preventing the Packers from extending their lead to 10-0.

The Packers also allowed Samuel to return the second-half kickoff 45 yards, setting up the 49ers' first field goal. Green Bay also appeared to have only 10 men on the field when Gould made his winning kick.

"We thought our special teams had an advantage in this game," 49ers coach Kyle Shanahan said. "We thought they had an opportunity to possibly win us the game. And to be able to say that and to actually come to fruition ... was huge for those guys and huge for our team."

San Francisco won by overcoming a brutal start from its offense. The 49ers had minus-10 yards in their first four series, three of which included third-down sacks. It was the first time the 49ers had opened a game with four straight three-and-outs since a 27-24 loss to the Minnesota Vikings on Sept. 27, 2009.

The 49ers didn't get a single first down or pass completion until Garoppolo connected with George Kittle on a 15-yard gain with less than 6 ½ minutes left in the second quarter. Garoppolo was just 11 of 190 for 131 yards with an interception, but the 49ers still managed to win.

"It took everything," Garoppolo said. "We knew it was going to. I mean, it was just offense, defense, special teams - everybody stepping up and doing their part. Wouldn't have it any other way."

McPherson FG as time expires lifts Bengals past Titans, 19-16

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Maybe, just maybe, these young Cincinnati Bengals really are that good.

Especially with the way they keep ending postseason droughts. And with their latest victory putting them in the franchise's first AFC championship game in 33 years — and a win away from the Super Bowl.

Rookie Evan McPherson kicked a 52-yard field goal as time expired, lifting the fourth-seeded Bengals past the top-seeded Tennessee Titans 19-16 on Saturday to end the NFL's longest active road playoff skid.

"He's got ice in his veins," Cincinnati coach Zac Taylor said of McPherson. "There's not much more to be said. He's just as cool as it gets."

A week after snapping a 31-year playoff victory drought, the Bengals (12-7) finally won their first road game in the postseason after losing their first seven. They reached

the 1981 and 1988 Super Bowls by winning on their home field.

"We're here to make some noise, and teams are going to have to pay attention to us," Cincinnati quarterback Joe Burrow said.

Cincinnati will play in the AFC championship game next Sunday at the winner of the Buffalo-Kansas City matchup. They play in the other AFC divisional round game Sunday.

The Bengals intercepted Ryan Tannehill three times, setting up two of McPherson's four field goals. Logan Wilson picked off Tannehill with 20 seconds left. Burrow hit Pro Bowl rookie receiver Ja'Marr Chase with a 19-yard pass, then the Bengals ran twice to set up McPherson for the win.

"That's a kicker's dream," McPherson said, "to have the game on your shoulders."

Burrow shook off being sacked nine times as Tennes-

see tied an NFL mark held by four other teams for the most in the postseason. He threw for 348 yards to become the first quarterback taken No. 1 overall to win a divisional game within his first two seasons.

Chase finished with 109 yards receiving.

Joe Mixon ran for the Bengals' lone touchdown, a 16-yarder on their first drive of the third quarter.

"We found a way all year," Burrow said. "Man, crazy, crazy game. That's a really, really good team. Unbelievable defensive line. They had a great plan on defense. Credit to them, we found a way at the end."

The Titans (12-6) wrapped up their 25th season in Tennessee with their third straight loss on their own field as the AFC's No. 1 seed. They haven't won at home since January 2003 in the postseason.

"I don't think Ryan or myself or anybody did enough to win the game," Titans coach

Mike Vrabel said. "That's how it goes. It's never going to be about one person, not as long as I'm head coach, which will be a while."

Tennessee had Derrick Henry, the 2020 AP NFL Offensive Player of the Year, on the field after he missed nine games with a broken foot. He ran for a touchdown and finished with 66 yards.

Tannehill was picked off on the Titans' first play of the game. His second came on first-and-goal at the Bengals 9 in the third. He finished with 220 yards passing. A.J. Brown had five catches for 142 yards. Burrow was the NFL's most sacked quarterback during the season, just ahead of Tannehill.

The Titans sacked him on his first snap and had three in the first quarter alone. Burrow became only the second quarterback to win an NFL playoff game despite being sacked nine times, joining Len Dawson who beat Buf-

falo for the 1966 AFL championship.

The Titans had plenty of opportunities to win.

Henry was stopped on fourth-and-1 at the Cincinnati 37 instead of Tennessee trying a long field goal for the lead with 7:16 left. They also got the ball back with 2:43 left and plenty of time to drive for the winning field goal themselves after scoring 10 points within 90 seconds late in the third quarter, tying it up at 16.

Tennessee showed little awareness of the clock, running only one play before the clock stopped for the 2-minute warning. On the third play, Tannehill's pass to Nick Westbrook-Ikhine was picked off by Wilson setting up the Bengals for the winning field goal.

"All day we were just shooting ourselves in the foot," Brown said of the Titans.

Tannehill summed up the pain of the loss, "This hurts. Hurts bad."

McPherson converted for his 11th field goal from 50 yards or longer, the most in a season for one player. He also became the first kicker in NFL history with at least four or more field goals in multiple games in a single postseason. "He stepped up big and got us to where we need to go," Burrow said.

TITANS SACK ATTACK

Tennessee's five sacks in the first half were the most in a playoff game since Jan. 8, 2000, when the Titans sacked Buffalo quarterback Rob Johnson five times in the game best known for the Music City Miracle. Burrow was only the third quarterback to be sacked at least five times in the first half of a playoff game since 1991.

Tennessee's nine sacks tied the NFL playoff mark previously set by Kansas City against the then-Oilers on Jan. 16, 1994, Cleveland vs. the Jets on Jan. 3, 1987; the 49ers against the Bears on Jan. 6, 1985 and Buffalo against the Chiefs on Jan. 1, 1967.

Nadal reaches Australian Open quarterfinals for 14th time



MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)—

After fending off four set points and being unable to convert the first six of his own, Rafael Nadal finally clinched a 28-minute and 40-second tiebreaker to get himself on track to secure a spot in the Australian Open quarterfinals for the 14th time.

After a 7-6 (14), 6-2, 6-2 fourth-round victory over fellow left-hander Adrian Mannarino on Sunday, Nadal is now potentially just three wins away from a men's record 21st Grand Slam singles title.

The 35-year-old Spaniard moved to equal-second with John Newcombe on the all-time list for most quarterfinals in Australia. Roger Federer tops that list with 15.

It's also his 45th time into the last eight at a Grand Slam tournament, which is third on the all-time behind Federer (58) and Novak Djokovic (51).

He shares the men's record 20 major titles with Federer and Djokovic. But he's the only one of the trio playing in this tournament.



Rafael Nadal of Spain celebrates his win over Adrian Mannarino of France in their fourth round match at the Australian Open tennis championships in Melbourne, Australia, Sunday, Jan. 23, 2022.

Mannarino, who didn't finish his third-round win until after 2 a.m. on Saturday

and appeared to be hampered at times by an abdominal or upper leg injury, threw

everything at Nadal in the opening set at Rod Laver Arena, where temperatures

approached 33 Celsius.

"First set (was) very, very emotional," Nadal said.

"Anything could happen there. I was a little bit lucky at the end. I had chances, he had a lot of chances too."

"I'm very happy I survived that first set, without a doubt," he added. "That crazy first set was so important."

The first set lasted 85 minutes, including the 'breaker, but after getting early breaks in the second and third sets the match was over in 2 hours, 40 minutes.

Next up for Nadal will be either No. 3 Alexander Zverev or No. 14 Denis Shapovalov, who were playing on Margaret Court Arena around the same time.

In the women's draw, French Open champion Barbora Krejickova breezed to a 6-2, 6-2 win over two-time Australian Open champion Victoria Azarenka to reach the quarterfinals for the third time in four Grand Slam events.

The fourth-seeded Krejickova will next play Madison Keys, who reached the semifinals in Australia in 2015 and was runner-up at the 2017 U.S. Open.

Keys overpowered eighth-seeded Paula Badosa 6-3, 6-1 in the first of the fourth-round matches on Day 7 at Rod Laver Arena.

The 26-year-old American, who beat 2020 Australian Open champion Sofia Kenin in the first round, hit 26 winners and made only 18 unforced errors against Badosa to continue her unbeaten start to 2022. She claimed her sixth career title at a tune-up tournament in Adelaide last week.

Krejickova went into her match against Azarenka believing the former 32-year-old, former No. 1-ranked player from Belarus was the favorite to win.

But the 2012 and 2013 champion made 28 unforced errors and dropped five service games, and it was all over in 85 minutes.

"She's a champion here. She likes this court. She's very experienced on this court. I have a lot of respect for her," Krejickova said. But, "I was doing everything to get this one, really preparing for a dream like this."

"And yeah, I'm in the quarterfinals."

In later matches, top-ranked Ash Barty was scheduled to play No. 60-ranked Amanda Anisimova, who saved two match points before upsetting defending champion Naomi Osaka in the third round.

The winner of that match between Barty and Anisimova will play No. 21-seeded Jessica Pegula, who beat fifth-seeded Maria Sakkari 7-6 (0), 6-3 on Margaret Court Arena.

Middleton scores 34, Bucks hold off Kings minus Giannis



MILWAUKEE (AP)—One night after overcoming a defensive struggle to beat the Chicago Bulls, the Milwaukee Bucks unleashed their offense on the Sacramento Kings.

The end result was the same, with the Bucks claiming a 133-127 victory Saturday night behind the play of veterans Khris Middleton and Jrue Holiday. Middleton finished with a game-high 34 points and Holiday added 26 as the Bucks won without Giannis Antetokounmpo, who sat out with right knee soreness.

"We just need to be able to win different type of ballgames," Middleton said. "Every game is not going to be perfect; every game is not going to be pretty. To get defensive stops, to get 50-50 balls like we did (against the Bulls), it helps. When you hit shots like we did tonight, it also helps."

Middleton sank a clutch 3-pointer with 1:09 left after the Kings (18-30), who trailed by as many as 15 points, rallied within three points. After Harrison Barnes converted a layup for the Kings, Holiday split the defense and threw down a left-handed dunk to give the Bucks a 126-120 lead with 47.6 seconds remaining.

The Bucks (30-19) closed out the game by sinking 7 of 8 free throws, including 4 of 4 by Middleton.

Holiday pointed to Middleton's key triple as keeping the



Sacramento Kings guard Harrison Barnes (40) dribbles the ball as Milwaukee Bucks forward Khris Middleton (22) defends during the first half of an NBA basketball game Saturday, Jan. 22, 2022, in Milwaukee.

Bucks in control of the game.

"I feel like this is what he has been doing," Holiday said. "He makes timely threes. He makes big shots, especially in that moment when they had momentum. He just came down and laced them, took advantage."

Donte DiVincenzo added 20 points while George Hill had 17 and Pat Connaughton 15 for Milwaukee. The Bucks made 21 of 42 3-point attempts one night after shooting 19.4% from behind the arc.

Hill and Connaughton both were in the starting lineup and made big contributions. Hill was 3 for 6 from 3-point range

and made all six of his free throws. Connaughton went 5 for 10 from beyond the arc, taking all of his shots from 3-point distance.

"I think they were great," Middleton said. "Pat got hot for us. George did a great job at the point guard position, just controlling the team. Defensively he was all over the place, coming down for rebounds and helping box out. Pat has played so many different positions. It's weird to see him playing the center. He's a selfless guy doing anything that can help."

Barnes paced Sacramento with 29 points as the Kings

shot 52.6% from the field (51 of 97). Tyrese Haliburton had 24 (including 5 of 8 on threes) and Terence Davis II added 22.

Middleton scored 17 points in leading the Bucks to a 62-54 halftime lead. Milwaukee sank 10 of 20 attempts from 3-point range and shot 48.9% overall (23 of 47) in the half.

Sacramento led by 12 points late in the first quarter but Milwaukee outscored the Kings, 35-19, in the second quarter.

Suns 113, Pacers 103

In Phoenix, Mikal Bridges tied a season high with 23 points, Bismack Biyombo matched his career best with 21 and

Phoenix won its sixth straight game by beating Indiana.

Biyombo also grabbed 13 rebounds as the Suns improved their NBA-best record to 36-9, shaking off a tough night for leading scorer Devin Booker. He had just 11 points on 5-of-23 shooting, including 0 for 6 from 3-point range.

Chris Paul added 18 points and 16 assists to help Phoenix equal its best start through 45 games.

The short-handed Pacers were coming off impressive back-to-back wins against the Lakers and Warriors but couldn't keep the momentum going. Chris Duarte and Lance Stephenson both scored 17 points.

Cavaliers 94, Thunder 87

In Cleveland, Darius Garland had 23 points and 11 assists, and rookie Evan Mobley added 15 points and a season-high 17 rebounds to lift Cleveland over Oklahoma City.

Jarrett Allen added 14 points and 13 rebounds for the Cavaliers, who have won six of seven.

Shai Gilgeous-Alexander paced the Thunder across the board with 29 points, nine rebounds and six assists. Kenrich Williams scored 12 points and Luguentz Dort had 10 before being ejected for elbowing Kevin Love in the head.

Cleveland lost forward Lauri Markkanen to a sprained right ankle in the second quarter.

Kagman nips Manta Rays on Pangelinan triple

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Darren Pangelinan connected on a triple with 2 seconds left to lift Kagman High School to a pulsating 29-28 win over Saipan Southern High School at the start of the IT&E Interscholastic Boys High School Basketball League last Friday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

The Ayuyus led 24-23 going into the last 2 minutes of the contest following a couple of free throws from Lucio Aldan. The Manta Rays retook the lead moments later on a T.J. Factor triple, his only points of the game.

Kagman came empty in their next possession and Frankie Satur, who led all scorers with 16 points, then went coast-to-coast to give Southern a 28-24 advantage with less than a minutes to go.

After an Ayuyu timeout, Aldan drove against the teeth of the Southern defense before making a dime to Garrett Mariano for an inside basket. Factor tried to bomb away from 3-point distance once again but came up empty. Both teams would exchange traveling violations and then

with 13 second left in the game, Christian Achas in-bounded the ball to Aldan who again drove toward the basket before kicking it out to Pangelinan who confidently shot it from rainbow country for the win. With no more timeouts, the Ayuyus were forced to shoot a Hail Mary from the backcourt with Satur's heave drawing iron but was too long.

It was nip-and-tuck all game long with Kagman taking a 13-11 lead at halftime. Pangelinan paced the Day 1 winners with 10 points with Mariano adding 7 markers of his own. Satur's 16 points were wasted in a heartbreaking loss.

In the other game, Kuu Nishimura and Charlie McDonald scored 6 points apiece to spearhead Saipan International School's shellacking of Mt. Carmel School's junior varsity team's 31-6.

The Lady Knights, meanwhile, escaped with a 6-5 win over the SSHS Lady Manta Rays at the start of the IT&E Interscholastic Girls High School Basketball League last Wednesday also at the MHS Gym.

Mt. Carmel blanked SSHS in the first half, 5-0, before



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Kagman High School's Darren Pangelinan, left, takes a shot in front of three Saipan Southern High School defenders during their game in the boys high school division of the IT&E Interscholastic Basketball League last Friday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

holding back the Lady Manta Rays in the second half thanks to the lone second half free throw of Kaia Travilla.

Wednesday
MCS 6 – Travilla 3, Bucalig 3.

SSH5 5 – Younis 3, Elias 2.
Scoring by halves:
5-0, 6-5.

Friday
KHS 29 – D. Pangelinan 10, Mariano 7, Hocog 5,



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Saipan Southern High School's Jane Elias, right, tries to dribble out of the defense of Mt. Carmel School's Kaia Travilla during their game in the girls high school division of the IT&E Interscholastic Basketball League last Wednesday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

Aldan 4, Ortiz 2, J. Pangelinan 1.

SSH5 28 – Satur 16, Factor 3, Garcia 2, Feria 2, Raquipo 2, Gilas 2.

Scoring by halves: 13-11, 29-28.

SIS 31 – Nishimura 6, McDonald 6, Lu 4, Nam 4, Song 4, Castro 4, Liang 2.

MCS JV 6 – Morales 2, Guerrero 2, Cepeda 2.

Scoring by halves: 18-2, 31-6.

TANIA

From Page 20

from Saipan International School and is currently a member of the Run Saipan board of directors. She was a Varsity Cross Country and

MISSING

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understanding of the funda-

RUN

From Page 20

Sildrey Vilorio, who dominated early on and held his lead throughout the course. Vilorio finished with a time of 24:45. Rounding out the podium were Jay-Ar Barrios (25:31)

Track runner at SIS, serving as a two-year captain for Cross Country. She also earned the distinction of team MVP for Cross Country.

"We couldn't be prouder of Tania and her accomplishments," commented former coach, Dr. Ron Snyder, headmaster at SIS and middle/long distance coach for Northern Marianas Athletics. "Especially with the added difficulties put upon her by the pandemic. This shows a level of perseverance that is truly remarkable."

mental principles of diet and training, it's really a matter of what fits your lifestyle, circumstance, and preference.

With that in mind, the les-

son here is if you want to change the trajectory, seeking out a capable expert is tremendously beneficial. This is the best way to attain

and Ronald Villafria (25:43). Evelyn Pangelinan won the women's division with a time of 27:56 followed by Rosemarie Chisato (28:35) and Jessica Ortizo (29:49). The youth division was led by Tiana Cabrera with a time of 31:42 and Jesse Sablan, crossing the fin-

ish line at 31:47.

Run Saipan has a very ac-

tive race schedule planned for 2022. The next race, the Marpi Drag 5K will be held on Feb. 5, 2022 at 6am near the entrance to the former Mariana Resort & Spa in Marpi. This is a fast out and back 5K turning just past the Last Command Post. Registration is open on the Run Saipan Facebook Page as well as the Northern Marianas Athletics Facebook page. The direct link is: <https://forms.gle/eqebULqTJVqtE2Gd9>.

Run Saipan members receive free entry into all the Run Saipan Monthly 5K races and reduced entry to many other races on the island. This results in a savings of over \$160 for members.

"Our first membership meeting was on Jan. 21st at Oleai Beach Bar and I am happy to announce that we already have over 40 members signed up," secretary/treasurer

meaningful results, but most of all, become self-sufficient. For someone who does this sort of thing for a living, this may seem biased. You might say it's conjecture. Believe me when I tell you there's a ton of value in having a qualified coach take the reins. Heck, even I have one.

Ron Snyder added. "The annual fees include a Run Saipan Race Shirt, a reusable bib with the member's number on it, lots of race specials and the chance to win prizes at the annual banquet in December. We also have special rates for students and off-island athletes."

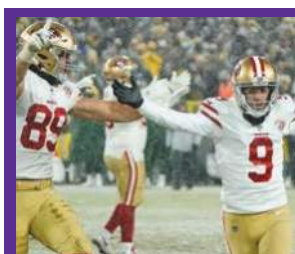
Run Saipan is working with Northern Marianas Athletics, the governing body of athletics in the CNMI, to sanction most of its races.

In a sanctioned race, runners will have the ability to set CNMI records for the specific race distance. Run Saipan is committed to offering opportunities to improve cardiovascular health for residents of the CNMI by hosting running events such as races, workshops and training sessions. Run Saipan invites all interested parties to join. (PR)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Participants of Run Saipan's inaugural Splash and Dash pose for a group photo at the end of the race.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES				
NBA STANDINGS				
EASTERN CONFERENCE				
Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Brooklyn	29	16	.644	—
Philadelphia	26	19	.578	3
Toronto	22	21	.512	6
Boston	23	24	.489	7
New York	22	24	.478	7½
Southeast Division				
Miami	29	17	.630	—
Charlotte	26	20	.565	3
Washington	23	23	.500	6
Atlanta	20	25	.444	8½
Orlando	8	39	.170	21½
Central Division				
Chicago	28	16	.636	—
Milwaukee	30	19	.612	½
Cleveland	28	19	.596	1½
Indiana	17	30	.362	12½
Detroit	11	34	.244	17½
WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Southwest Division				
Memphis	32	16	.667	—
Dallas	26	20	.565	5
New Orleans	17	28	.378	13½
San Antonio	17	29	.370	14
Houston	14	33	.298	17½
Northwest Division				
Utah	30	16	.652	—
Denver	23	21	.523	6
Minnesota	22	23	.489	7½
Portland	19	26	.422	10½
Oklahoma City	14	32	.304	16
Pacific Division				
Phoenix	36	9	.800	—
Golden State	33	13	.717	3½
L.A. Lakers	23	23	.500	13½
L.A. Clippers	23	24	.489	14
Sacramento	18	30	.375	19½
BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS				



Gould's FG gives
49ers 13-10
upset of Packers

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Kagman nips
Manta Rays on
Pangelinan triple

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Tania resets NMI 3,000m indoor record

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Tania Tan has reset her own CNMI 3,000m record with a time of 10:57.58 in the Ramapo Season Opener indoor track meet last Jan. 21 at the Armory Track in New York City.

The 20-year-old Fordham University junior eclipsed her old record of 11:26.54 set at the Stockton University Invitational in 2021.

"I'm just happy to know that my training has been paying off and I'm always glad to represent the NMI even when I'm not back on the islands," Tan told *Saipan Tribune* in a social media message.

More than the distance, she



said overcoming the mental aspect of running the track 15 times was the toughest challenge.

"It was an indoor track meet so it was on a 200 meter banked indoor track at the Armory in NYC. I had to run 15 laps which was also mentally tough because it is just so many laps," she said.

Tan finished seventh overall and was the second Fordham

runner to cross the finish line, helping the team secure a definitive victory at the meet.

Fordham scored 120 points, followed by Iona University with 76 points, and Wagner University with 71.5 points. Fordham is a NCAA Division 1 school, competing in the Atlantic 10 Conference.

"I want to thank everyone who's been supporting me throughout my running career especially Northern Marianas Athletics," she said.

Tan is pursuing a double major at Fordham University in Anthropology and Digital Technology and Emerging Media. She is also minoring in sports journalism.

Tan, a familiar name in distance running in the CNMI, was the 2019 valedictorian

See **TANIA** on **Page 19**

Run Saipan starts off year with a splash



Run Saipan started off its annual race series with a run in Lao Lao Bay called the Dash and Splash. The 5K course started at the home of Liz and Kraig Church and ran southwest along the road to the pavilion where the runners turned around. The race finished at East Bay where a few

brave runners christened the race with its name by splashing into the bay. The course was rough, hilly, and obstacle-ridden at the end, a true cross-country race.

"The race was a great start to what I hope will be a great running year for us," said Run Saipan president Edward Dela Cruz, Jr. "We had roughly 30 join us for the Dash and

Splash. The weather was a bit rough but these runners were troopers. Run Saipan would like to thank Kraig and Liz Church for allowing the runners to park at their beautiful home and to our support volunteers Erik Baza, Juanita Fajardo, Michael Macao, and Robin Sapong."

Leading the men's pack was

See **RUN** on **Page 19**



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Beue Bauer is faithful to the splash portion of Run Saipan's inaugural Splash and Dash last Saturday in the East Bay of Lao Lao Bay.



Tania Tan is shown here in a 2020 file photo at the indoor track at the Armory Track in New York City.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Missing the point

I've come to a sudden realization that incompetency is omnipresent—from top to bottom. Even for an optimist such as myself, having to deal with it takes a toll on you. That's not what has been on my mind lately, though. It's strange that a person trying to eat healthier is low-key shamed. Yet for some odd reason you're rude if you try to gently nudge someone into losing weight and making better food choices. That, too, is not what has been on my mind.

If there's anything I took away from these last two years or so, it's that many people seemingly fail to

understand context and nuance. Someone is always quick to disprove my two cents on a particular topic when it's their perspective that's being challenged.

I mean what do I know, right? It's not like I haven't been coaching people up for nearly a decade.

Look, as much as I harp on the fact it's all about be-

ing consistent in making better food choices and exercising regularly, I'd be remiss if I didn't say it's much more nuanced than that. Basically, different cases require different approaches. It would be ridiculous of me to put everybody in the same boat.

Provided you have a good

See **MISSING** on **Page 19**

Ask **DRE:**

By **DRE DELOS SANTOS**
Special to the *Saipan Tribune*

Dre Delos Santos writes about fitness and nutrition for Saipan Tribune and TAGA Sports. He is a personal trainer at Gold's Gym. He is featured on fitness sites such as Weight Watchers, T-Nation, and STACK.

